

Lawcadia Case Study: Ausgrid

When transformation was a strategic imperative, Lawcadia provided the transparency, data and consistent processes for success.

THE CLIENT

Ausgrid

THE CHALLENGE

In December 2016, Ausgrid commenced a significant transformation process to better meet customers' needs through a new ownership structure. This transition from 100% NSW Government owned and operated to 50.4% private ownership marked a significant shift in the focus and operations of the large NSW-based infrastructure organisation.

A new management team was appointed to Ausgrid, along with a new General Counsel who was tasked with leading and transforming the legal function. One of the many challenges facing the newly appointed General Counsel was a lack of accurate systems and processes for reporting on matters, spend and budgeting.

When the General Counsel, Nigel Lowry, commenced his role, he identified a substantial discrepancy between what the legal fees the business was tracking and the legal fees that were being paid.

As well as undertaking a strategic review of the existing panel of law firms, the General Counsel identified a need to implement a system that:

- Provided a simple and easy to use platform for approving law firm engagements
- Tracks the costs incurred for all active legal matters engaged across their panel firms
- Provided clear visibility of the legal spend across all panel firms by firm and by matter category

THE SOLUTION

As part of the review of the Ausgrid legal panel, Ausgrid implemented Lawcadia in July 2018.

THE APPROACH

Lawcadia worked with Ausgrid to train and on-board their legal team and all their panel law firms in just a few weeks to achieve a go-live date of 1 July 2018 - the start of new financial year (in Australia).

In addition to many readily available reports available through the Lawcadia platform, Lawcadia has worked closely with Ausgrid to provide bespoke reports on a monthly basis to meet their specific reporting requirements.

THE BENEFITS

The use of Lawcadia has provided Ausgrid with a platform through which Ausgrid is now able to:

- Easily approve panel firm engagements

- Monitor legal spend against budget
- Better manage their panel of law firms

CUSTOMER SUCCESS

At Lawcadia's annual conference in 2019, the Asia-Pacific Legal Procurement Conference, Nigel presented a case study on "Executing Transformation of a Legal Function", highlighting the strategy and change management required across people, process, and technology. The presentation was very well received and was inspiring for other in-house counsel.

"Lawcadia provided us with the system we needed to ensure we could accurately track our matters, budget and spend across the legal function"

***Nigel Lowry, General Counsel & Company
Secretary, Ausgrid***



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