

Clarendons advises K.W. Doggett Fine Paper on merger and sell-down to global distributor

Wednesday, 19 April 2017

We are delighted to have advised family-owned Australian paper merchant, K.W. Doggett Fine Paper, on its merger with New Zealand headquartered, BJ Ball Group, and subsequent sell-down of the combined group to global paper distributor, Japan Pulp and Paper.

K.W. Doggett Fine Paper is a leading independent family-owned paper merchant to the print and design market. The business was founded in 1975 and has since grown to employ over 220 people with offices and warehouses located across Australia.

Under the transaction, K.W. Doggett Fine Paper will merge with New Zealand headquartered, BJ Ball Group. BJ Ball Group is a leading wholesaler of packaging materials, ink and other products in New Zealand and Australia and is controlled by New Zealand private equity firm, Maui Capital.

Immediately following the merger, global paper distributor, Japan Pulp and Paper will acquire a 51% controlling interest in the combined group for approximately A\$75 million. Under the transaction, Japan Pulp and Paper has an option to acquire the outstanding 49% of the combined group within up to 3 years after completion.

Completion of the transaction is subject to regulatory approvals and is expected to occur in July 2017.

The Clarendons team was led by Directors Tony Symons and Robert Feiner, who were assisted by Senior Associate Julie Lyons and Associate Richard Hoare.

Mr Symons congratulated K.W. Doggett Fine Paper on reaching this important milestone, noting “this is a significant transaction in the evolution of the K.W. Doggett Fine Paper business. We are very pleased to partner with the Doggett family and the business in reaching this successful outcome. It is a testament to the achievements of the business over a long period of time.”

Mr Feiner commented that “this is a complex transaction involving parties and advisers located across three jurisdictions. We are very pleased to have worked seamlessly on behalf of K.W. Doggett Fine Paper with the other parties and advisers and look forward to bringing the transaction to a successful conclusion.”

Clarendons was assisted by Russell McVeagh on New Zealand law aspects. BJ Ball Group was advised by Harnos Horton Lusk, with assistance from Herbert Smith Freehills on Australian law aspects. Japan Pulp and Paper was advised by Baker & McKenzie, with assistance from Quigg Partners on New Zealand law aspects.

- END -



For further information, contact:

Tony Symons | Managing Director | Clarendon Lawyers

T + 61 3 8681 4410 | **M** + 61 433 280 882

E tony.symons@clarendonlawyers.com.au

[Clarendon Lawyers](https://www.clarendonlawyers.com.au) is a corporate legal advisory firm, specialising in mergers and acquisitions and equity capital markets. We are experts in public and private M&A, ECM, PE and VC, commercial dispute resolution, property law and general corporate and commercial law. We have a unique and compelling quality, service and value proposition. Our team of highly talented, seriously commercial, energetic and genuinely good people are incredibly invested in our clients and their businesses. Based in Melbourne, we are one of the largest specialist corporate law firms in Australia. See www.clarendonlawyers.com.au for further information.