# Disputes Outlook 2025

# Legal Project Management

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The Legal Project Management (LPM) role has developed from mere cost management on disputes, to full project management for the entire dispute lifecycle. LPM continues to add value by emphasising the need for good scoping, risk management and process. LPM acts as the central connection between the legal and business support teams.

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## Early case assessment

Disputes do not happen in a vacuum and with growing social awareness comes the realisation that there are many factors that play into early case assessment. Dispute teams need to consider outside factors such as the environment and sustainability, the potential impact on communities and reputation before embarking on a dispute.

LPM is well-placed to co-ordinate input from various stakeholders, present the findings and make recommendations. LPM core skills already include stakeholder mapping, risk identification and monitoring, communication and problem solving. LPM involvement in early-case assessments will expand in the coming years.

## Tech-enabled LPM

AI tools can relieve the burden of administration that accompanies most LPM tasks, leaving the LPM free to focus on the management of a matter. Current planning tools are still quite manual. We believe that as AI capabilities develop, LPM planning tools will get "smarter", allowing the LPM to spend time on the people side of projects, instead of on the administrative tasks.

## LPM as an internal partner

LPM involvement in in-house strategic projects continues to expand. We anticipate that this means LPM will be partnered with in-house teams at the start of a dispute, supporting the matter but also supporting the strategic objectives of the in-house team. Early engagement of LPM on projects allows for greater cross-collaboration on the set up of a matter, including the exploration and design phases.

- Consult with internal/external LPMs when reviewing your existing and future technology suite. Are the tools currently being proposed or trialled LPM-friendly? Can existing tools be adapted to suit LPM?
- Consider what the drivers are to engage LPM. More accurate reporting and MI? Budget and Costs Management? Operations support? It is best practice to document and agree LPM scope early on.

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