

Blare Sutton

Partner in Melbourne

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Blare is a technology and cyber professional who regularly manages highly sensitive engagements involving internal and external stakeholders, financial institutions and regulators.

Leading the McGrathNicol Cyber practice in Melbourne, Blare has a passion for breaking through the hype and jargon of the technology industry to help his clients achieve their goals. He specialises in understanding business processes, risk and regulatory frameworks and jurisdictional requirements to provide practical solutions to business and technological issues. With a background in IT advisory and implementation, Blare has almost three decades of experience in technology advisory, cyber risk and resilience and crisis management.

Blare's career highlights include leading the crisis management and incident response relating to ransomware incidents across various clients in the health, finance, technology, automotive and retail sectors, including tertiary level hospitals in both Australia and New Zealand.

He has also conducted numerous cyber resilience uplift programs for local and international clients, assessing their maturity against the NIST cyber security framework and subsequently designing and implementing a program of work to mitigate significant risks. Blare has led the technology and cyber due diligence for acquisitions across numerous sectors and has assisted a major client in the renewables sector meet the requirements of the Foreign Investment Review Board by uplifting its cyber resilience to Security Profile 1 of the Australian Energy Sector Cyber Security Framework.

Blare's broad experience includes seven years as the CTO at one of Australia's leading software vendors in the legal technology industry working with clients such as the US Department of Justice, the British Columbia Securities Commission, and the UK Financial Conduct Authority. In addition to nine years managing the information systems of leading Australian and International retailers, and over a decade of 'Big 4' and professional services consulting experience.

Engagement Experience —

Cyber Strategy, Risk & Incident Response

- Assessed the cyber resilience of one of Australia's leading superannuation funds, providing & presenting recommendations for improvement to the Audit & Risk Committee.
- Assisted in the crisis management and incident response relating to ransomware incidents across various clients in the health sector, including tertiary hospitals in both Australia and New Zealand.

Qualifications & Memberships —

- Associate Member, Australian Computer Society
- Member, AISA
- Post Graduate Certificate in e-Crime Investigation, Melbourne University
- Certificate III Investigative Services
- High Technology Crime Investigation Association
- International Information System Security Consortium (ISC)2



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- Conducted numerous cyber incident response, remediation and data breach assessment projects for local and international organisations.
- Assisted a state government department with the development of a process to automatically classify inbound, intransit and outbound data, creating alerts around sensitive information to inform the business about the movement of information within and leaving the organisation.
- Led an initiative to preserve and protect information used and accessed by senior executives in a large Australian financial institution. Developed processes and procedures to preserve information and data egress at organisational boundaries, with automated reporting into the Security Operations Centre.
- Conducted numerous cyber resilience uplift programs for local and international clients across a variety of industry sectors, assessing their maturity against the NIST cyber security framework and subsequently designing and implementing a program of work to mitigate significant risks and improve their cyber resilience to a state acceptable to their board.
- Assisted a major client in the renewables sector uplift its cyber resilience to Security Profile 1 of the Australian Energy Sector Cyber Security Framework.

Technology Advisory

- Led the technology and cyber due diligence in relation to a target in the finance sector, identifying several unmitigated risks and underinvestments leading to a material reduction in the final transaction value.
- Led the technology and cyber due diligence in relation to a target in the technology sector, identifying significant security risks in its underlying architecture that could have led to a material loss of value if left untreated.
- Assisted as part of the due diligence team assessing a potential acquisition target in the automotive sector, identifying significant material risks due to underinvestment that ultimately led to the withdrawal of offer.
- Advised an organisation in the retail sector on the technology environments used throughout its assets, with a view to identifying and realising synergies across multiple brands. Designed and project managed the implementation of a three year program to consolidate and extend platforms to reduce cost and improve operational efficiencies.
- Assisted an organisation in the technology and finance sector uplift its technology and cyber governance and maturity in preparation for sale, resulting in a positive material evaluation.
- Led the development and adaptation of software in the legal technology vertical from on premise, server based implementation to a cloud based SaaS product utilising cloud services provided by AWS.
- Analysed, documented and provided recommendations on improvement of data flow through over 200 integrated information systems used by a Big 4 bank for the delivery of core banking services.
- Designed and implemented a high availability SaaS data processing and analysis solution in AWS for the Financial Conduct Authority (UK).
- Advised on the migration of a merchandising and stock management / inventory system from a bespoke UniData UniVerse system to a modern, off the shelf retail management system for an international fashion retailer with over 120 outlets.