



**DONOVAN OATES
HANNAFORD**

Capability Statement

A refreshing approach to legal advice

Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skilful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives.

William A. Foster

HADYN ORITI
Principal

TAYLOR HORNE
Principal



“We are a trusted, forward-thinking, longstanding law firm – recognised for delivering expertise with local understanding, clear and confident support, and a genuine connection to community.”





An Expert Team

Donovan Oates Hannaford is a long-established law firm serving the Hastings region since 1946. Eight decades on, we remain a trusted presence, and a genuinely progressive one.

We offer the depth and capability of a highly experienced specialist firm, delivered with the accessibility, care, and personal service that defines a regional practice at its best. Our lawyers have trained in city firms, published papers, and presented at seminars. They have also chosen to practise here, on the mid north coast, because they are invested in this community and in the clients they work alongside.

That combination is not easy to find.
Local understanding. Extensive expertise.



A Refreshing Approach

We are legal experts. And we are people experts.
No matter how we represent you, our aim is to make sure you remain at the centre of your legal matter.
To do this, we:



LISTEN FIRST

We take time to thoroughly understand your situation before providing advice, so you can be confident we understand your needs and expectations.



PRIORITISE CLEAR & OPEN COMMUNICATION

Prioritise clear and open communication. We offer professional advice that is easily understood, without unnecessary complexity or jargon.



RESPOND EFFICIENTLY

Respond efficiently. We understand the importance of delivering quality service that represents real value for money.



ADVISE WITH AUTHORITY

Advise with authority. Our team brings deep expertise across a growing range of specialist practice areas, across different industry categories and organisations.



Core Capabilities



DONOVAN OATES
HANNAFORD

Our Services



Property Law and Conveyancing

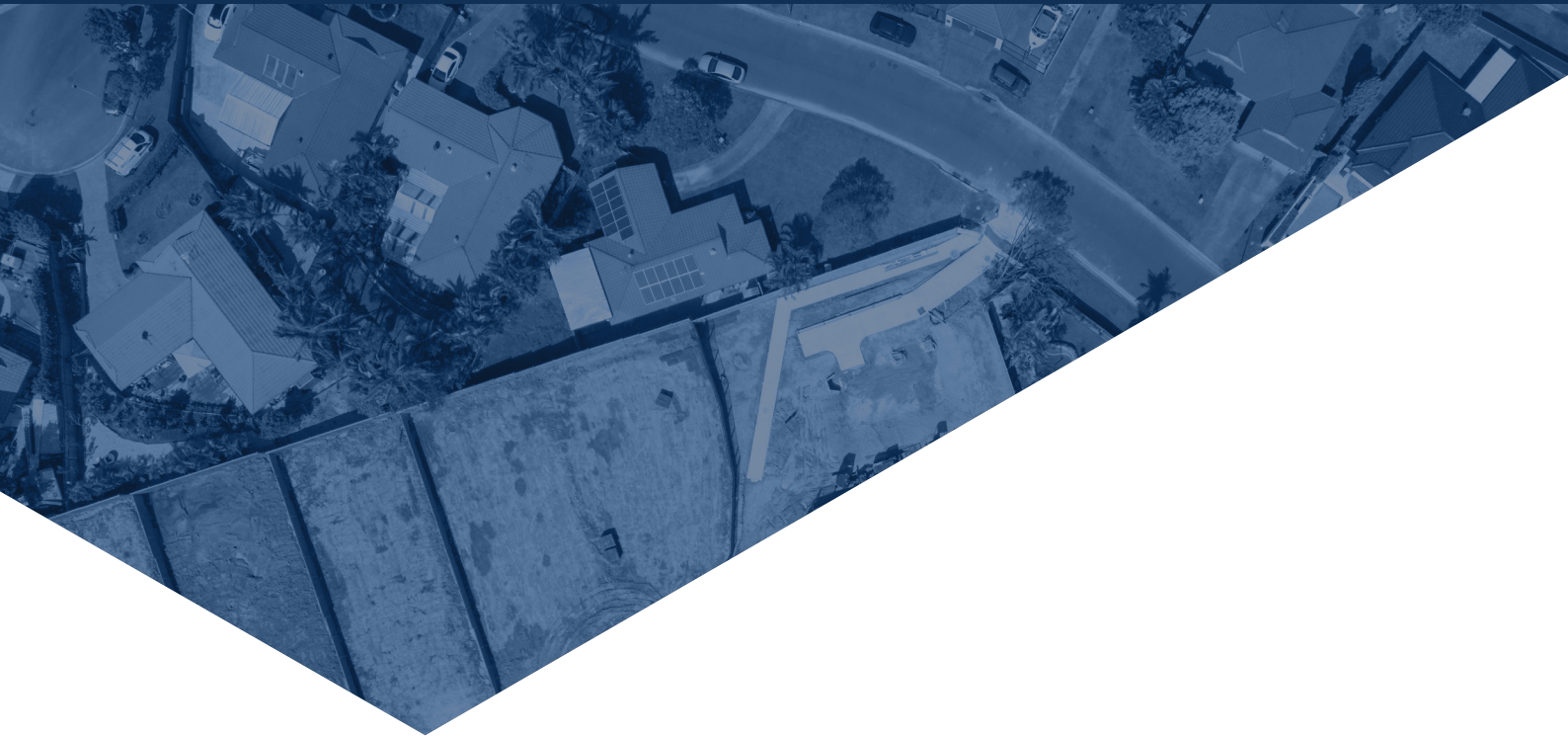
We act for buyers, sellers, investors, and developers across the full range of property transactions, from straightforward residential conveyancing to complex commercial matters.

We assist with:

- Residential and commercial conveyancing
- Commercial and retail leasing – drafting, reviewing, and negotiating
- Property acquisitions and disposals
- Subdivisions, easements, caveats, and mortgages
- NSW Land Registry Service dealings
- Due diligence and contract advice
- Loan documentation and related party transfers
- Advice on residential land developments



Our Services



Planning, Environment and Local Government

We are a progressive regional law firm with specialist expertise across all aspects of planning, environment, and local government law – a depth of capability that has, until now, required clients to look beyond the region.

We take a holistic approach to every matter, recognising that planning, environmental, and legal issues rarely sit in isolation. We work alongside you as a trusted partner at every stage, from early feasibility through to project delivery, ensuring you are informed, prepared, and positioned for the best possible outcome.

Our clients include developers, landowners, councils, and government agencies, relying on us for day-to-day advice and representation, including in the Land and Environment Court.

We assist with:

- Planning & Development
- Development Certification and Building Compliance
- Environmental Law
- Compulsory Acquisition
- Crown Land and Native Title
- Local Government



Our Services



Wills, Estates and Succession Planning

You can't control the future, but you can prepare for it.

We help individuals, families, and business owners protect what matters, from simple wills to complex succession planning and estate administration.

We assist with:

- Wills, Powers of Attorney, and Appointments of Enduring Guardian
- Probate applications and Letters of Administration
- Notice of Deaths and Transmission Applications
- Testamentary trusts
- Complex estate planning for business owners and families



Our Services



Commercial Law and Business Advisory

Commercial law is one of our specialities and one of our genuine passions. We support businesses at every stage; from start-up through to growth, transition, and succession.

We assist with:

- Contract drafting and commercial agreements
- Business acquisitions and sales (asset and share sale)
- Business structuring and shareholder agreements
- Corporate advisory and regulatory compliance
- Insolvency and business recovery advice
- Franchising advice
- Building and construction law
- Succession planning for Business



Our Services



Employment Law

We prioritise prompt, practical advice on employment matters, advocating for fairness in the workplace while helping employers manage risk and compliance.

We assist with:

- Drafting and advising on employment contracts
- Compliance with the Fair Work Act and relevant Awards
- Employee performance management
- Employment disputes, including restraint of trade



Our Services



Commercial Dispute Resolution and Litigation

Disputes are common in business. Our leading litigation practice combines deep knowledge of negotiation and mediation principles with the right people skills to get results.

We have extensive experience across a wide range of jurisdictions including Local, Supreme, and Federal Courts through to the Court of Appeal and NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT)

We assist with:

- Commercial and contractual disputes
- Employment disputes
- Building and construction disputes
- Partnership and shareholder disputes
- Competition and consumer law disputes, including misleading and deceptive conduct
- Property and strata disputes
- Insolvency claims



Our Services



Debt Recovery

We offer effective debt recovery and litigation services with a streamlined process from demand to enforcement designed to recover what is owed, without unnecessary delay or cost.

We assist with:

- Letters of demand and negotiation
- Commencing recovery proceedings and drafting a statement of claims
- Locating the debtor through skip tracing services
- Obtaining and enforcing default judgments
- Bankruptcy and winding-up proceedings
- Representation in Local, Supreme, and Federal Courts and the NSW Tribunal
- Post-liquidation and corporate insolvency advice



Our Team



HADYN ORITI

Principal

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Areas of Practice

Property & Commercial Law • Estate Planning
Consumer Credit and Retail Banking • Estate Dispute
Leasing - Commercial & Retail • Personal Property



TAYLOR HORNE

Principal

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Areas of Practice

General Litigation • Debt Recovery • Commercial
Disputes & Transactions • Insolvency & Restructuring
Construction Disputes • Employment Law



ERIN FULLER

Special Counsel

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Areas of Practice

Environment & Planning • Property • Crown Land
Local & State Government • Native Title
Compulsory Acquisition • Land & Environment Court



TAYLOR DAND

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Areas of Practice

Commercial Transactions • Property Law
Leasing - Commercial & Retail • Conveyancing
Estate Planning • Environmental Law



TAHLIEA PRUSSING

Conveyancer

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Areas of Practice

Conveyancing



Our people are what set us apart.

Visit dohlaw.com.au to learn more about each team member.

Client Feedback



Our clients engage us across a broad range of matters, including Wills and Estates, Conveyancing and Property, Commercial Law, Employment Law, Business Sales and Purchases, Building and Construction Law, and Environment and Planning.

21%

Of client survey respondents have been clients for over 25 years

100%

Of client survey respondents would use our services again



Winner of the Professional & Business Services (6+ Employees) Award at the 2026 Coastline Bank Greater Port Macquarie Business Awards.



Community

We're proud to live, work, and give back in the Hastings region.

- Business Port Macquarie
- Hastings Business Women's Network
- Rotary - Sunrise Hastings Sports Awards
- Charles Sturt University Port Macquarie Campus Advisory Committee
- Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service
- Cancer Council

For us, law is more than process, it's about people, and building stronger communities through clear, confident legal advice.



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