

WHEN A TRAILER COLLAPSE BECOMES A MILLION-DOLLAR CLAIM

Two proceedings, one clear resolution strategy...

Claim Type: Public Liability

Payout: \$1,000,000

THE ARCH CLAIMS EXPERIENCE:

Speed – Resolved two concurrent proceedings early, avoiding prolonged litigation

Clarity – Kept our client fully informed and aligned before any steps were taken

Support – Managed a high-value, multi-party claim with transparency and care

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What Happened

A labour hire employee was injured when a trailer owned by our client collapsed. The incident triggered two separate legal actions: a common law damages claim from the injured worker in Victoria, and a recovery action from the Victorian WorkCover Authority (VWA) seeking reimbursement of workers compensation payments. Together, the claims totalled over \$1.2 million in exposure.



The Fallout

Facing simultaneous proceedings from two separate parties, our client needed a coordinated and considered approach. With damages sought of approximately \$780,000 from the injured worker and around \$450,000 from the VWA, the stakes were significant and the path to resolution was far from straightforward.



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The Challenge

With two concurrent proceedings running in parallel, the risk of escalation was real. Left unmanaged, the combined exposure of over \$1.2 million could have drawn our client into a prolonged and costly contested trial, draining both financial resources and management attention at a critical time for the business.



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Our Approach

We conducted thorough investigations into our client's legal liability and developed a clear resolution strategy. Critically, we discussed and agreed that strategy with the client before taking any steps to resolve either claim. Both proceedings were resolved early, avoiding the cost and uncertainty of a contested trial.



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The Result

Our client was fully indemnified for Defence Costs and the negotiated settlement amounts across both proceedings. An early resolution protected the client from prolonged exposure and the significant costs of litigation.



VWA

