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Preface

There have been a number of developments since the first edition of *Corporate Information and the Law* was published in May 2013. These developments continue to highlight the ongoing tensions that arise where the law seeks to regulate the creation, collection and use of corporate information. Indeed, the ever-increasing importance of information to modern society is reflected in commentary that is emerging concerning the extent to which information should be regulated. Take, for example, the view that has recently been expressed that it 'may not necessarily be too big a leap to consider the possibility of access to big data falling within the access provisions of the Competition and Consumer Act, if big data is considered a form of (information) infrastructure'.¹ This would have been a remarkable comment not so long ago, but even if one disagrees with the opinion, there are certainly reasonable conceptual grounds for holding the opinion today in light of the growing importance of information to economic activity.

In a point that I make elsewhere in this book, the tensions that arise in the regulation of corporate information are a direct result of the highly evaluative nature of the questions of law, fact or mixed law and fact that are an inherent feature of this area of the law. This book is dedicated to examining those issues and legal developments that have occurred since the first edition was published which continue to exhibit the evaluative feature to which I refer. The second edition has also been updated to reflect the development of my own thinking in this critical area of the law since I wrote the first edition. The changes that have been made since the first edition have added approximately 70 pages to the text. While it is not possible to highlight all the additions, some of the key changes I have made to the text since the first edition was published are set out below:

- Chapter 1 — Introduction to Corporate Information and the Law — revised to highlight the ever-increasing volume of information being produced across the globe and to better highlight the key issues covered in the second edition.
- Chapter 2 — Copyright in Corporate Information — updated with enhanced technological examples.

1. K Edghill, 'ACCC Must Wake Up To The Big Data Reality', *Australian Financial Review*, 25 August 2015, 25.