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Printed copies of the Western Australian Law Reports Volume 1 to Volume 60 (1899-1959) have been scanned using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software and the relevant metadata (case name, citation, etc) captured to enable the linking of these judgments with all the other primary and secondary legal material on AustLII. While the text is displayed as a PDF image of the paper report the OCR text is searchable through AustLII's search engine and will also be captured through AustLII's award winning LawCite citator to track the citations of these historical cases to the present day. AustLII acknowledges with gratitude the assistance of the Supreme Court of Western Australia Library and the Law Practice Board of Western Australia for making available the physical copy of these reports for scanning.

The scanning and processing of the 1,857 cases covering more than 10,000 pages of this historical series of Western Australian Law Reports has been made possible by the Australasian Legal History Library project, an Australian Research Council (ARC) - Linkage Infrastructure and Equipment Fund (LIEF) grant involving ten universities.

The Library builds on prior work undertaken by AustLII to develop new research facilities for Australasian Legal History. The materials which are being included in the Library will be of great value to Australian legal historians, practicing lawyers and other legal researchers, but until now have been inadequately accessible because very few are available online at all. By the end of 2013 this Project will build the most comprehensive collection of Australasian legal history resources and represents the single most significant expansion of free access to Australasian legal information since AustLII's creation in 1995.

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