



Search & Summarise Practical Law – Getting Started

Search and Summarise Practical Law uses generative AI and trusted Practical Law content to quickly deliver a summarised response, enabling you to make informed decisions about the direction of your legal research. Practical Law resources will be referenced in the response by way of footnotes.

About Search & Summarise Practical Law

Search & Summarise Practical Law uses a process called retrieval augmented generation (RAG) which searches across Practical Law's know-how. The results are grounded in the trusted Practical Law content. A large language model summarises the response and provides citations to Practical Law resources.

What content is Search & Summarise Practical Law searching?

The AI tool searches across our Practical Law Australia resources, including:

INCLUDED	EXCLUDED
Practice notes/Overviews	Westlaw Australia content
Standard Documents and Standard clauses	Video/Audio Content
Checklists	Reuters News
Toolkits	
Glossary	
All Trackers (Legislation and Case Law)	
Legal Updates	

Tips for best results

Ask your questions in everyday language. Include key details, the more distinctive the better.

- e.g. "What should a formal offer of compromise made in NSW Supreme Court proceedings contain?"
- e.g. "Is advertising a property as a "mortgagee sale" a breach of a mortgagee's duty in exercising its power of sale?"
- e.g. "What are the requirements to remotely make a statutory declaration in Victoria?"

Use descriptive words as well as references.

- e.g. "Is the test for breach of the duty to act in good faith in the best interests of the company in section 181 of the CA 2001 objective or subjective?"
- e.g. "What is the minimum employment period that must be met for an employee to be eligible to make an unfair dismissal application under the Fair Work Act 2009?"

Don't use conventional query techniques like Boolean Terms & Connectors.

Don't provide information that is irrelevant to your legal research question.

- e.g. you do not need to say, "I'm preparing a presentation for my colleagues on ..."; "I urgently need to know about ..."

Don't ask for things other than answering legal research questions.

- e.g. you cannot instruct the AI to "Write me a slide deck ..."; "Draft a services agreement on.."

Provide feedback from the answer page using the **'Was this response helpful?'** thumbs up or thumbs down. It does not directly train the system, but our Product team reviews the feedback to improve the service.

Running a Search & Summarise Query

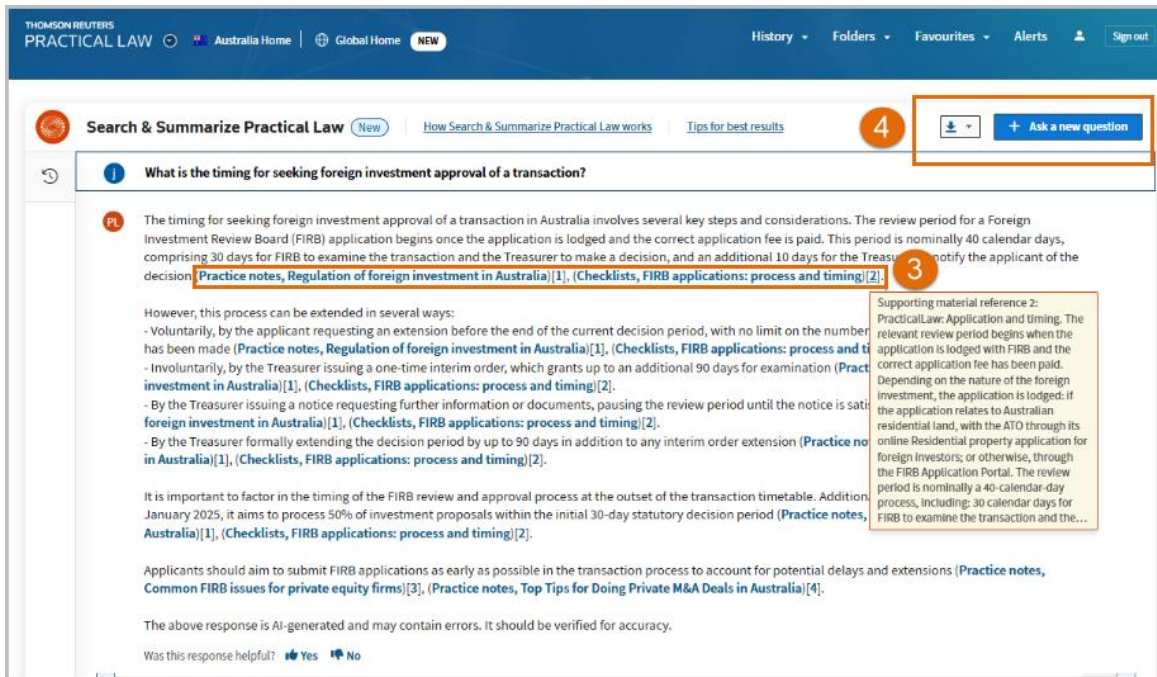
1. Click the Search & Summarise “Access now” button on the right-hand side of the screen.

2. Type your query into the search box and click submit e.g. What is the timing for seeking foreign investment approval of a transaction?

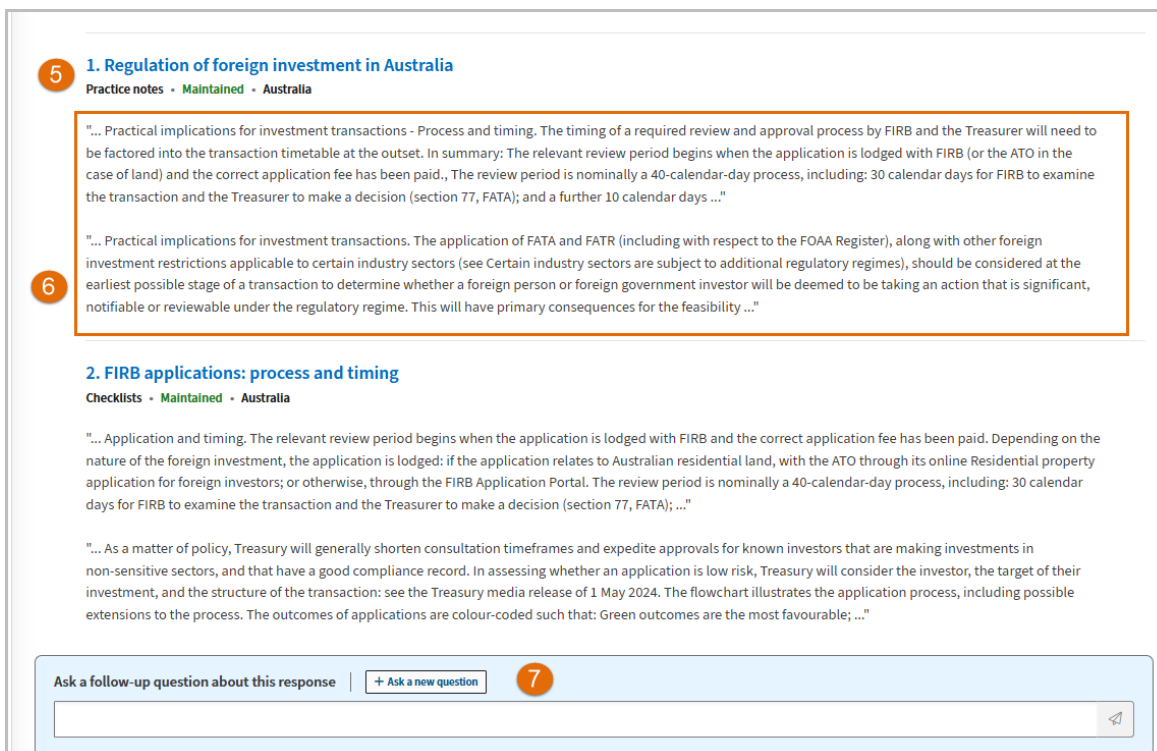
Once the query has run, a summary response is generated.

Supporting authority is provided to verify statements in the AI summary, enabling you to make better-informed decisions and complete the remainder of your research more efficiently. The citations are hyperlinked within numbered brackets.

3. Hover over a **bracketed number** and a pop-up will appear with the relevant excerpt from the Practical Law resource.
4. **Delivery Options** and ability to **+ Ask a new question** are displayed in the top right of the screen.



5. All the supporting authorities are listed underneath the generated response.
6. Relevant extracts of text from the authority are shown. Click on an extract to view original passage in the source document e.g. Practice notes, Checklists etc.
7. You can ask up to **5 follow-up queries** to further refine or clarify your research.



8. Click the **History** icon to expand and display the most recent questions. Click **Go to full history** to display a list of all searches.

The screenshot displays the Thomson Reuters Practical Law interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'THOMSON REUTERS PRACTICAL LAW' and options for 'Australia Home', 'Global Home', and a 'NEW' badge. The main header includes 'History', 'Folders', 'Favourites', 'Alerts', and a 'Sign out' button. Below this is a search bar with the text 'Search & Summarize Practical Law' and a 'New' badge. There are also links for 'How Search & Summarize Practical Law works' and 'Tips for best results', along with a download icon and a '+ Ask a new question' button.

The interface is divided into two main sections. On the left is a 'History' sidebar, which is currently expanded to show a list of recent searches. The top search is 'What is the timing for seeking foreign investment approval of a transaction?' dated '25 February, 2025 11:15 AM | Active'. Below it are two other search entries: '• What is the timing for seeking foreign investment approval of a transaction?' dated '25 February, 2025 11:14 AM | Active' and 'How do you determine if consent to an assignment has been unreasonably withheld?' dated '25 February, 2025 11:09 AM | Active'. The bottom entry is 'how can i strengthen a payment terms provision in a Sale of Goods agreement for my buyer client' dated '30 January, 2025 12:03 PM'. A 'Go to full history' link is visible at the top of the sidebar.

The main content area on the right displays the selected search result. The question is 'What is the timing for seeking foreign investment approval of a transaction?'. The answer begins with 'The timing for seeking foreign investment approval of a transaction in Australia involves several key steps and considerations. The review period for a Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) application begins once the application is lodged and the correct application fee is paid. This period is nominally 40 calendar days, comprising 30 days for FIRB to examine the transaction and the Treasurer to make a decision, and an additional 10 days for the Treasurer to notify the applicant of the decision (Practice notes, Regulation of foreign investment in Australia)[1], (Checklists, FIRB applications: process and timing)[2].'

However, this process can be extended in several ways:

- Voluntarily, by the applicant requesting an extension before the end of the current decision period, with no limit on the number of extensions unless an interim order has been made (Practice notes, Regulation of foreign investment in Australia)[1], (Checklists, FIRB applications: process and timing)[2].
- Involuntarily, by the Treasurer issuing a one-time interim order, which grants up to an additional 90 days for examination (Practice notes, Regulation of foreign investment in Australia)[1], (Checklists, FIRB applications: process and timing)[2].
- By the Treasurer issuing a notice requesting further information or documents, pausing the review period until the notice is satisfied (Practice notes, Regulation of foreign investment in Australia)[1], (Checklists, FIRB applications: process and timing)[2].
- By the Treasurer formally extending the decision period by up to 90 days in addition to any interim order extension (Practice notes, Regulation of foreign investment in Australia)[1], (Checklists, FIRB applications: process and timing)[2].

It is important to factor in the timing of the FIRB review and approval process at the outset of the transaction timetable. Additionally, Treasury has indicated that from 1 January 2025, it aims to process 50% of investment proposals within the initial 30-day statutory decision period (Practice notes, Regulation of foreign investment in Australia)[1], (Checklists, FIRB applications: process and timing)[2].

Applicants should aim to submit FIRB applications as early as possible in the transaction process to account for potential delays and extensions (Practice notes, Common FIRB issues for private equity firms)[3], (Practice notes, Top Tips for Doing Private M&A Deals in Australia)[4].

Looking for more information?

Sign into Practical Law Australia: <https://au.practicallaw.thomsonreuters.com>

Tech Support: Techcare.ANZ@thomsonreuters.com or 1800 020 548 (AU) 0800 10 60 60 (NZ)

Request Training: tlanz-trainers@thomsonreuters.com

For additional training materials: <https://support.thomsonreuters.com.au/>