**Fraudulent phoenix companies in Government spotlight**

**A number of key** Government agencies are working together to combat fraudulent phoenix behaviour through the Inter-Agency Phoenix Forum.**The** agencies are sharing intelligence, data, legislative ideas and experiences to assist in the detection and deterrence of fraudulent phoenix behaviour.

Fraudulent phoenix activity is where a company **deliberately liquidates to avoid paying creditors and then carries on the same or similar business with the same ownership, via another entity. This is not only illegal but has far reaching and unfair consequences for the community - employees, contractors and suppliers do not receive payments and claims they are entitled to.**

There are serious consequences for people who promote or intentionally participate in fraudulent phoenix activity including criminal convictions, custodial sentences and hefty fines.

**Inter-Agency Phoenix Forum m*e*mbers:**

* Australian Taxation Office
* Australian Securities and Investments Commission
* Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
* Australian Crime Commission
* Australian Federal Police
* Clean Energy Regulator
* Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
* Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
* Fair Work Building and Construction
* Fair Work Ombudsman
* State and territory revenue offices.

Each agency has an individual role to play when it comes to detecting and deterring fraudulent phoenix behaviour.

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|  | For more information:   * on the [Inter-Agency Phoenix Forum](https://www.ato.gov.au/Business/Consultation--Business/In-detail/Inter-Agency-Phoenix-Forum/About/Inter-Agency-Phoenix-Forum/?page=2) including its charter and minutes from meetings, visit Community consultation forums: Small to medium enterprises on the ATO’s website [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au) * on how to report fraudulent phoenix activity visit the [Tip-Offs & Voluntary Disclosures](http://www.sro.vic.gov.au/sro/SROnav.nsf/LinkView/B89E9394EA363068CA2575C8000367665F63D925308B6BFACA2575CA00240729) section on our website. |