

## Editorial: the ‘metaverse’

The beginnings of another digital reality – the ‘metaverse’ – has begun. There will be significant problems with the significant amount of energy used to power this development, as well as the difficulties that will occur in obtaining sufficient of the earth’s resources to provide for the experience.

In terms of law, issues that arise from any problems that occur during the use of the ‘metaverse’ will be relatively complex. Although simulations, data visualizations, augmented and virtual reality are admitted into evidence,<sup>1</sup> consideration will need to be given to jurisdiction and whether a substantive legal right or offence has been committed. Once over that hurdle, disclosure of relevant evidence will, no doubt, be a significant issue, and if admitted, how it will be admitted and by what means – concerns relating to the competence, knowledge and qualifications of the witness giving evidence.

Given the poor state of legal education in relation to evidence in electronic form, it is debatable whether the legal profession remains fit for purpose.

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