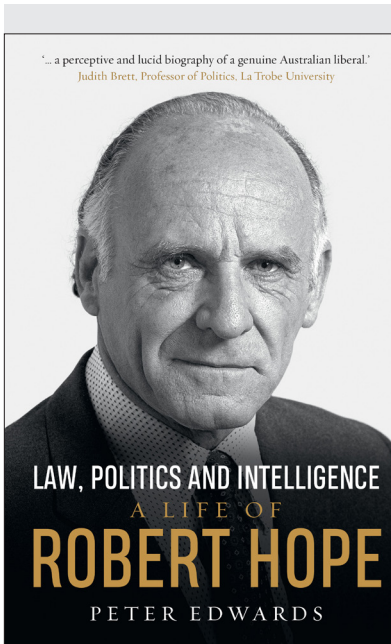




NEWSOUTH

# Law, Politics and Intelligence A life of Robert Hope

Peter Edwards



Classification | Biography |  
Australian history | Legal history  
| Political history | History of  
intelligence and security

March 2020

ISBN 9781742235370

NewSouth 400pp, HB, 234x153mm

RRP AU\$49.99 NZ\$69.99

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## **Robert Marsden Hope (1919–99), a NSW Supreme Court judge, shaped the structures, operations and doctrines of Australia’s intelligence agencies more than any other individual.**

Commissioned by three Prime Ministers to conduct major inquiries, including two royal commissions, Justice Hope prescribed the structures, legislation, operational doctrines, and national and international arrangements that would ensure Australia had agencies that were effective in countering threats to its security, while also being fully accountable to the government, the law and the parliament.

More than a biography of Hope, *Law, Politics and Intelligence* also makes an important contribution to the history of Australia’s environmental policies, adds significantly to the debate on judges acting as Royal Commissioners, and contains new insights into the appointment of High Court and Supreme Court judges, as well as the dismissal of the Whitlam Government.

This landmark biography is a groundbreaking account of the life and times of a man who shaped the way our intelligence agencies have operated for four decades.

### **Endorsements**

‘Robert Hope deserves a place among the giants of Australian public policy and governance, above all for his transformative Royal Commission reports laying the foundations for a coherent, effective and accountable national intelligence community, and describing how to identify and protect our natural and built heritage. And in Peter Edwards this multi-faceted, highly principled, famously charming but occasionally cantankerous jurist has found the biographer he has long deserved. This is a comprehensively researched, meticulously fair, lucidly written and completely absorbing read.’

— GARETH EVANS AC QC

‘... a perceptive and lucid biography of a genuine Australian liberal.’  
— JUDITH BRETT, Professor of Politics, La Trobe University

### **About the Author**

PETER EDWARDS is the award-winning author of several books on Australia’s defence and foreign policies, policy-making and policy-makers. He was Official Historian and general editor of the nine-volume *Official History of Australia’s Involvement in Southeast Asian Conflicts 1948–1975*. His recent books include *Australia and the Vietnam War* (UNSW Press 2014). He is author of the acclaimed biography of the influential public servant Sir Arthur Tange, *Arthur Tange: Last of the Mandarins*. He is a Member of the Order of Australia, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of International Affairs, and a former trustee of the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne.