



Simon Ashworth

Partner

Sydney
+61.2.9513.2520

Simon.Ashworth@klgates.com

OVERVIEW

As many of his clients can attest, Simon Ashworth is known as an imaginative thinker who develops innovative solutions and focuses his advice on helping create value for his clients and get the deal done.

Simon advises consortia, contractors and construction companies on a wide range of infrastructure procurement in both Australia and New Zealand. He specializes in procurement strategy and contractual drafting and negotiations, including for infrastructure projects (in particular transport and social infrastructure) and energy and resources projects. He has advised on a number of government infrastructure projects for both public and private sector clients including the Sydney Light Rail PPP, Grafton Prison PPP, Auckland Prison PPP, South Auckland (Wiri) Prison PPP, Gold Coast Light Rail PPP, Cross River Rail PPP, Sydney Growth Trains, NSW Social and Affordable Housing Fund Phase 2, Sydney Ferries Outsourcing and Australia's new Antarctic Icebreaker.

Simon is highly regarded in the market as one of Australia's leading practitioners and is recognised by *Chambers Asia-Pacific* (2017 – present), *The Legal 500 Asia-Pacific* (2017 – present) and *Best Lawyers* (2015 – present) directories for his expertise.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Simon was a partner at one of Australia's leading independent law firms.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- *Best Lawyers in Australia*, listed in Project Finance and Development Practice (2015 – present)
- *Chambers Asia-Pacific*, ranked individual in Construction - Australia (2017 – present)
- *The Legal 500 Asia-Pacific*, recommended lawyer for Construction (2017 – present)
- *IFLR1000*, Notable Practitioner in Project Development, Australia (2021)
- *The Legal 500 Asia-Pacific*, recommended lawyer for Project Development (2020)

"Simon Ashworth is a consummate professional; always attuned to client needs, very responsive and provides sound commercial advice." and "Simon Ashworth is an exceptional lawyer with a deep understanding of the Australian projects market, deal norms, and market participants. More importantly, Simon has taken the time to understand my business, its needs, and its complexities. As such, Simon delivers expert, relevant and practical advice." (The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2021)

Clients say that "he's very legally astute" and "he's legally very smart and he aims to provide the most efficient legal service." (Chambers Asia Pacific 2020)

"Simon Ashworth is able to bring his vast experience to provide pragmatic solutions to legal issues. Simon makes great efforts to understand his client's businesses and as such can tailor solutions to the business context." and "seasoned practitioner Simon Ashworth ... brings impressive expertise in these [road, rail, port, social infrastructure, energy and renewables] sectors including PPP experience." (The Legal 500 Asia-Pacific 2020)

"Clients praise the depth of his knowledge." (Chambers Asia Pacific 2019)

"He knows the market, he's very measured and considered, and he gives practical advice that is underpinned by a good knowledge of the legal situation." (Chambers Asia Pacific 2019)

"His attention to detail and ability to turn around significant volumes of work at short notice is why we continue to brief him." (Chambers Asia Pacific 2018)

"He is a very good negotiator, always coming up with a good solution, and he is very imaginative." (Chambers Asia Pacific 2017)

"A strong solutions provider." (The Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2017)

"Simon is like a member of my own legal team, only at a different level. He works with our in-house team bringing skills we don't have." (Infrastructure client)

"I'm confident in saying that if we did not have Simon negotiating on our behalf we would not have had such a successful outcome. I would not hesitate to recommend him for work involving the Commonwealth and am confident that he would bring value to any such transaction." (Engineering client)

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Law Society of New South Wales, member
- Law Society of England and Wales, member

EDUCATION

- Legal Practice Course, College of Law, Chester, 1994 (*Hons*)
- LL.B., The University of Liverpool, 1993

ADMISSIONS

- Supreme Court of England and Wales
- Supreme Court of New South Wales

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- February 2021, Qatar PPP Projects (*Webinar*)
- 25 March 2019, We Didn't Start the Fire – VCAT Hands Down Decision on the Fire at Lacrosse Tower (*Alerts/Updates*)

NEWS & EVENTS

- 16 December 2020, K&L Gates Recognized in Chambers 2021 Asia Pacific and FinTech Guides (*Rankings & Recognitions*)
- 7 February 2020, K&L Gates Advises ISS on South Australia Schools Public Private Partnership (*Press Release*)
- 15 January 2019, K&L Gates Adds Top Construction Partner to Sydney Office (*Press Release*)

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Real Estate
- Construction and Infrastructure

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Advising principals and contractors on numerous construction, engineering and processing contracts, including for major shopping centres, hotels, hospitals, warehouses and facilities for the handling of liquid chemicals, gasses and oil products.
- Advised the Department of Environment, Victoria and SA Water and the South Australian Crown Solicitors Office in relation to their desalination projects. Advised Barwon Region Water Authority on its biosolids PPP.
- Advised the Connecting Sydney consortium (Acciona Infrastructure Australia, Transdev, Alstom Transport Australia and Capella) in its successful bid for the new CBD and South East Light Rail and operations of the Inner West Light Rail project.
- Acted for the Becton, Westpac Banking Corporation Limited, St George Community Housing Association consortium on its successful bid for the Bonnyrigg Living Communities PPP.

- Acted for the Bridge Housing consortium as its lead legal advisor on its bid to develop 500 dwellings as part of the NSW Government Social and Affordable Housing Fund Phase 2 (SAHF2).
- Antarctic Icebreaker, DMS Maritime – Acted for a subsidiary of Serco, on its successful bid for the AUD2 billion contract to design, build, operate and maintain a new 156 metres long Australian icebreaker research and supply vessel for the Australian Antarctic Division of the Commonwealth Department of Environment.
- Corrections Sector – Advised both builders and operators of corrections facilities for Grafton Prison PPP in their procurement phases and during contract implementation. These projects include: Grafton Prison PPP, Auckland Prison PPP, South Auckland (Wiri) Prison PPP, Ravenhall Prison PPP, Waikeria Prison PPP, NSW's John Morony Prison Outsourcing, and Mt Gambier Prison Outsourcing.