

Simon Ashworth

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Simon Ashworth is a partner in the firm's Corporate practice. As many of his clients can attest, he 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 focuses 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 to present), *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific* (2017 to present) and *Best Lawyers* (2015 to present) directories for his deep experience.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

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

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognised by *Chambers Asia-Pacific* for Construction in Australia, 2017-2026

"Simon is very personable to work with and provides a good level of customer service" and "Simon gives prompt and well thought-out advice on and attention to complex documents and issues relevant to construction contractors. He is a charismatic and caring person." (*Chambers Asia-Pacific*, 2024)

"Simon is a very experienced and pragmatic lawyer. He is a delight to work with and is always there to provide sound advice and support." (*Chambers Asia-Pacific*, 2023)

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

- Recognised by *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific* as a Recommended Lawyer in Australia
  - Infrastructure Projects and Construction, 2024-2026
  - Project Development, 2020
  - Construction, 2017-2020

"Simon Ashworth stands out - incredibly knowledgeable and responsive" and "Simon Ashworth is user friendly and hands-on." (The Legal 500 Asia Pacific, 2024)

"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)

"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)

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

- Recognised by *Lexology Index* (Formerly *Who's Who Legal: Australia and New Zealand*) as a Recommended Lawyer for Construction, 2022-2025
- Listed in the *Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyers,* 2022-2023
- Recognised in the *IFLR 1000* as a notable practitioner for project development, Australia, 2021-2024
- Listed in *Best Lawyers in Australia*™ for Project Finance and Development Practice, 2015-2024

"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*

- March 2026, February and March 2026 Accolades
- July 2021, July 2021 Accolades
- 25 March 2019, We Didn't Start the Fire – VCAT Hands Down Decision on the Fire at Lacrosse Tower

NEWS & EVENTS

- 2 February 2026, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Recognized on *Thomson Reuters* Stand-out Lawyers List
- 11 December 2025, *Chambers Asia-Pacific* 2026 Guide Recognises K&L Gates
- 11 March 2025, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Receive Global Recognition in *Thomson Reuters*' Stand-out Lawyers List
- 14 December 2023, Chambers Asia-Pacific 2024 Guide Recognises K&L Gates
- 16 December 2021, Chambers Asia-Pacific 2022 Guide Recognises K&L Gates
- 16 December 2020, K&L Gates Recognized in Chambers 2021 Asia Pacific and FinTech Guides
- 7 February 2020, K&L Gates Advises ISS on South Australia Schools Public Private Partnership
- 15 January 2019, K&L Gates Adds Top Construction Partner to Sydney Office

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Construction and Infrastructure
- Energy Assets and Transactions
- Real Estate Development and Construction

INDUSTRIES

- Energy
- Life Sciences

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- 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.
- Antarctic Icebreaker, DMS Maritime – Acted for a subsidiary of Serco, on its successful bid for the AU$2 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.
- 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).
- 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.
- 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.
- Advising the D&C contractor (comprising two international contractors in joint venture) on its bid for the AU$5 billion, 128-kilometre Gowrie to Kagaru, including the 6.2-kilometre tunnel through the Toowoomba Range, Inland Rail PPP.
- Advising the O&M contractor on its bid for the Stations, Systems, Trains, Operations and Maintenance package of the AU$3-4 billion Sydney Metro Western Sydney Airport PPP.
- Advising the contractor bidding for the AU$1.85 billion Next Generation Trams project to deliver and maintain 100 new trams for Melbourne.
- Advising the contractor bidding for Sydney's Western Harbour Tunnel project.
- Advised Downer on its successful bid and project delivery of the Sydney Growth Trains project.
- Advised the FM contractor on its successful bid for the SA Schools 2 PPP.
- Advised Serco on its bid within the TransForm Consortium, including the project deed, O&M contract and interface deed related to the North West Rail Link PPP (now Sydney Metro).

- Roads Sector: numerous road projects including the East West Link PPP, Puhoi to Warkworth PPP, Transmission Gully PPP, Eastlink PPP, Peninsula Link PPP, the Northern Beaches Hospital Connectivity and Network Enhancement, Brisbane's Airport Link PPP and the CLEM7 Tunnel PPP.
- Ferries: advised tenderers bidding on the original Sydney Ferries Franchising and the follow up Sydney Ferries Retender.
- Drafted and negotiated contract documents (including EPC contract) with shortlisted tenderers for the development of a Bitumen Storage Facility at Port Botany, and a low aromatic fuel storage tank in Darwin.
- Advised the FM contractor on its bid to provide services to the College, Halls of Residence and an accompanying hotel as part of the Curtin University Student Accommodation Project in Western Australia.
- Advised 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.