

CONFERENCE



# Australasia Commercial Management of Construction

Wednesday, 14 May 2025



### Type of event

Hybrid



### CPD Hours

5  
Formal

# Book your place today

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The Australasia Commercial Management of Construction Conference returns in 2025 as a hybrid event – face to face in Sydney at the elegant Shangri-La Hotel, and online for those unable to attend in-person.

In 2025, we expect to see a variety of industry and sector trends impacting the commercial success of major construction projects across Australasian markets. This year's conference will examine several of the key issues impacting the management of commercial contracts in the region. Session highlights will include:

- Real-life case studies on dispute avoidance and collaboration, with leading professionals exploring alternative dispute resolution methods.
- An in-depth look at the role of experts and best practice in Program Delay Analysis and the factors that make a successful delay claim.
- A discussion on project cost over-runs - examining international examples of Should Cost Modelling.
- Key construction law updates, including case studies for Australia and New Zealand.

Don't miss the opportunity to hear from our diverse range of panellists and presenters. With industry-leading content and speakers from across the sector, the conference is an invaluable opportunity for commercial teams to come together and discuss the issues impacting their future project outcomes.



**Time zones:**

AEST/  
NZST

9:00  
11:00

## Registration, light breakfast & networking

10:00  
12:00

## Chair's welcome

Speaker(s): Steve Evans FRICS, Director, Condordia Resolution

10:15  
12:15

## Keynote address

Speaker(s): Headline partner - Laing O'Rourke

10:25  
12:25

## Conference Breakfast Partner introduction

10:30  
11:35

### Session 1: Where are all the female commercial managers? Can we do better?

Some construction contractors and client-side organisations have implemented innovative and progressive policies to support diversity in the profession, but many haven't. Could we do better? A panel of female commercial managers examine progress in attracting, supporting and retaining women in contract and commercial management roles.

11:00  
13:00

### Session 2: Not another mega project cost over-run! Is Should Cost Modelling the answer?

Roughly half of all Australian projects with an initial price tag of A\$1 billion or more have a cost overrun by an average of 30%. This inevitably leads to conflict, disputes and legal battles. Why do mega projects suffer from significant cost over runs and what is the solution? The UK Government now require 'Should Cost Modelling' in government procurement. Should this process be adopted more in this region?



## Time zones:

AEST / NZST

11:30  
13:30

**Session 3: Everyone's a construction expert - or so they think!** A professional expert can be crucial to the successful outcome in a dispute. Whether it be an Expert Determiner, an Expert Witness ('dirty' or 'clean'), or expert adviser/claims consultant. We'll take a look at some pitfalls, best practice and recent legal cases affecting these roles and provide a top ten Expert checklist!

12:00  
14:00

**Lunch**

13:00  
15:00

**Re-energiser**

13:10  
15:10

**Conference Tech Partner introduction - CCR**

13:15  
15:15

**Session 4: Breaking down the walls - collaborative contracting in practice**

John Holland and Sydney Water are working together to build a \$1.2 billion water processing plant at Upper South Creek near Sydney. We'll hear from the project director and the lead contractor on the unique collaborative project philosophy and approach at Upper South Creek and the successful project outcomes this is generating.

13:45  
15:45

**Session 5: 'Complex and Impenetrable' - does program delay analysis need to be so hard?**

Is Forensic Delay Analysis an impenetrable 'Dark Art'? Should it be? To anyone that has been involved in disputes relating to programmes and delays, it's no surprise that courts have thrown out expert delay analysis reports for being mind-bogglingly complicated. Is there any easy way to approach these problems, or does impenetrable complexity come with the territory?

What are the keys to a successful delay claim? Does more always mean better? A Panel of client side, contractor and consultant commercial managers share their experiences, and look at some recent examples and key cases that have shaped expert delay analysis.



## Time zones:

AEST / NZST

14:15  
16:15

### **RICS Dispute Resolution Service update**

Patsi Michalson, RICS Dispute Resolution Manager

14:25  
16:25

### **Conference Legal Partner introduction - Hall & Wilcox**

14:30  
16:30

### **Construction law essentials**

What are some of the key legal developments currently affecting construction contracts?

Our conference legal partner, Hall & Wilcox, will look at issues including:

- Legislative changes to deal with widespread public concern regarding the quality of residential construction
- Responses to the risks of fixed price contracting in an inflationary environment, and:
- Legal issues arising from changing construction technologies and procurement methods (e.g. modular and pre-fabricated construction).

15:00  
17:00

### **Afternoon tea**

15:30  
17:30

### **Session 6: Taking the emotion out of disputes**

Disputes can derail construction projects, but emotional reactions often make things worse. This session explores efficient Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods—such as Dispute Resolution Boards, expert determination, negotiation, and mediation—that resolve conflicts fairly and swiftly. Learn how ADR, combined with the collaborative principles of mutual trust and cooperation, can minimise conflict and keep projects on track.



## Time zones:

AEST / NZST

16:00  
18:00

### **Solving the skillset crisis - RICS commercial management training**

Historically it took 5 years to progress between each of the various commercial roles (QS – Senior QS - Commercial Manager – Senior Commercial Manager - Regional Commercial Manager). These days, the shortage of skilled commercial and QS staff in the region has seen the journey from QS to Senior Commercial Manager crunched down to 5 years. This brings with it a lack of experience, skills and a resulting impact on commercial management of projects. Would a new RICS commercial management training package help bridge the gap? If so, what subjects should be covered?

16:25  
18:25

### **Conference closing remarks**

16:30  
18:30

### **Conference Drinks Partner introduction**

16:35  
18:35

### **Post-conference networking**

17:35  
19:35

### **End of conference**

## Delivering confidence

We are RICS. Everything we do is designed to effect positive change in the built and natural environments. Through our respected global standards, leading professional progression and our trusted data and insight, we promote and enforce the highest professional standards in the development and management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Our work with others provides a foundation for confident markets, pioneers better places to live and work and is a force for positive social impact.

Americas, Europe, Middle East & Africa  
**[aemea@rics.org](mailto:aemea@rics.org)**

Asia Pacific  
**[apac@rics.org](mailto:apac@rics.org)**  
United Kingdom & Ireland  
**[contactrics@rics.org](mailto:contactrics@rics.org)**



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