

CONFERENCE



# Australasia Commercial Management of Construction Conference

Thursday 30 April 2026





### Type of event

Hybrid



### CPD Hours

5  
Formal

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The RICS Australasia Commercial Management of Construction Conference is the leading conference in the region for commercial, contract and cost management, procurement and dispute resolution professionals. In 2025 over 500 commercial, cost and contract management professionals registered for our event.

Our 2026 conference will once again be a hybrid event – face to face in Sydney and with an opportunity for online panellists and live viewing for those unable to attend in person. The conference is being held on Thursday 30 April 2026 at the Shangri-La Hotel. A diverse range of speakers, panellists and attendees (client side, contractor and consultant) will participate from across Australia and New Zealand.

Participants will share their expertise and experiences as they participate in discussions that dive into the key issues that are impacting and being managed across the ANZ region by commercial teams striving to deliver successful construction project outcomes. The event is also the year's best networking opportunity for commercial, contract and dispute professionals.

The conference will include a range of topics and speakers that will help those establishing and managing construction contracts to minimise their risk and maximise their commercial outcomes.

# Programme



**Australia**  
30 Apr 26



**New Zealand**  
30 Apr 26

## Time zone:

AEST

NZST

9:00

11:00

9:45

11:45

10:00

12:00

10:15

12:15

10:25

12:25

10:55

12:55

### Registration, light breakfast & networking

### Chair's welcome

Speaker(s): Steven Evans FRICS, Concordia Resolution

### RICS President's address

Speaker(s): Nick Maclean OBE, RD, FRICS

### Headline address

Speaker(s): Headline Partner – David Fogg MRICS, Director, iCost

### Panel session 1: Procurement strategy on major projects - When process, probity and capability drive outcomes

Early procurement and delivery strategy decisions materially influence project performance, claims behaviour and dispute outcomes — often long before contract administration issues arise. The panel session will aim to help commercial managers better influence early-stage decision-making and improve project outcomes.

Moderator: Colin Bond FRICS, HJA

Panellists:

- Allan Barclay MRICS, Downer
- Joshua Revell, Sydney Water
- Matt Sullivan FRICS, Laing O'Rourke
- Matt Wheeler FRICS, BECA

### Top 5 tips! Conflict avoidance – Project kick off meetings

Speaker(s): Julian Hemms MRICS and Manny Hansji - MMD Robinson Wood

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11:10

13:10

## **Panel session 2: Sydney Airport and the journey to adopt NEC4**

Sydney Airport are the latest major client-side organisation to adopt NEC4 for their major program of work. In this session we'll hear from Sydney Airport about their drivers and the plans going forward in discussion with a panel of experts.

Moderator: Peter Colacino, NEC Contracts

Speaker: Paul Willis, Sydney Airport

Panellists:

- Amri Denton, HKA
- Joe Corney MRICS, Laing O'Rourke

11:40

13:40

## **Insurance Partner introduction**

Speaker(s): Simon Gray, Practice Leader, Construction Professionals, Bellrock Advisory

11:45

13:45

## **Top 5 tips! Conflict management – Claims entitlement**

Speaker(s): David Fogg MRICS, Director, iCost

12:00

14:00

## **LUNCH**

13:00

15:00

## **Charity Partner and Supporter introduction**

Sarah Rosborg from Rafiki Mwemba and Tony Hilton MRICS from CCR will showcase the charitable work being undertaken in Africa to support abused children – in this fund-raising session.

13:25

15:25

## **Conference Tech Partner introduction**

Speaker(s): Garry Andrews MRICS, House of Experts

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13:30

15:30

### **Panel session 3: Renewables – The commercial and contractual challenges**

The nature of Hydro, Solar and Wind Power projects mean different risk, commercial and procurement models are required. Off-site manufacture, regional-rural labour and material issues, supply chain and grid connection issues all contribute to the challenge for commercial teams.

Moderator: David Fogg MRICS, iCost

Panellists:

- Stefan Fenk, Hall & Wilcox
- Tom Perkin, DT Infrastructure

14:00

16:00

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

Speaker(s): Patsi Michalson, RICS Dispute Resolution Manager

14:10

16:10

### **Panel session 4: Responsible use of AI in commercial management**

AI is increasingly being used in commercial, contract management and dispute resolution from analysing contract clauses to assisting with quantum reports but where can this go wrong? An expert panel will look at how commercial managers are now using AI and how the risks are being managed.

Moderator: David Balzarolo, ConnellGriffin

Panellists:

- Rowan Braham, Laing O'Rourke
- Stephen Bolt FRICS, WT
- Tom Balmer, TransPerfect

14:40

16:40

**AFTERNOON TEA**

[rics.org](https://www.rics.org)

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15:10

17:10

### **Conference Legal Partner introduction & Construction Law essentials**

Speaker(s): Alex Hartmann, Partner, Hall & Wilcox

15:35

17:35

### **Top 5 tips! Conflict resolution – Expert determination**

Speaker(s): Colin Bond FRICS and Andrew Hesse - HJA

15:50

17:50

### **Panel session 5: Ten construction contract nightmares**

What are the ten construction contract dispute issues/challenges we see again and again? What causes them and how can they be avoided or mitigated?

Moderator: Wayne Elsom MRICS, Twenty-Two Group

Panellists:

- David Fogg MRICS, iCost
- Rebecca Pickering, Hall & Wilcox
- Sanjaya Indrarathna FRICS, Sydney Water
- Simon Gray, Bellrock Advisory

16:20

18:20

### **RICS Commercial Management Training launch**

Speaker(s): Steven Evans FRICS, Concordia Resolution

16:30

18:30

### **Conference Drinks Partner introduction**

Speaker(s): Matthew Reay MRICS, Investstructure

16:35

18:35

### **Conference close**

Speaker(s): Steven Evans FRICS, Concordia Resolution

16:40

18:40

### **Post-event networking drinks**

## 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.

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