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AUSTRALIA JAPAN PRACTICE

AUSTRALIA

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Ian Williams

Partners



Elizabeth Charlesworth



Graeme Gamble



Gregg Rowan



Melissa Swain-Tonkin



Nicole Pedler

Special Counsel



Steven Rice

Senior Associates



Kate Bower



Ravi Arora



Timothy Stutt

Solicitors



Hiroko Ito



Elodie Nadon



Oliver Cook



Lara Howden



Tatsuki Shiratsuchi



Lauren Woo



Peter Keeves



Sorin Ridgway-Browne



Sakura Kajimura

Graduates / Trainees



Clarence Ma



Tatsuaki Tomiyama



Edward Watson

JAPAN

Partners



Damien Roberts



Andrew Blacoe

Senior Associates



Tom Bowes



Joel Rheuben



Patrick Corrigan



Jennifer Wu

Associate



Ryu Long

Indicates Japanese language proficiency



OUR AUSTRALIA TEAM



Melissa Swain-Tonkin Partner
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Melissa has extensive experience in public and private acquisitions and restructures and she specialises in advising offshore financial investors on their Australian investments. Melissa has a particular focus on advising Japanese investors on farm-ins, joint ventures and other equity investments in the energy and resources and infrastructure sectors.

Melissa has worked with a number Japanese corporations during her career and she currently advises Japanese trading houses, power utilities and mining companies on their investments in Australia and associated off take arrangements.

Melissa previously held the role of General Counsel and Company Secretary of an ASX-listed coal mining company and so has a strong understanding of the Australian mining industry and the importance of delivering legal advice that has full regard to the commercial context.

Melissa's full profile can be read [here](#).



Elizabeth Charlesworth Partner 
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Elizabeth specialises in advising on acquisitions/divestments as well as greenfield development of infrastructure and energy assets. She has acted for both financiers and sponsors on a range of transactions across the sector covering the UK, Europe, Africa and Australia.

Elizabeth's financing experience includes limited recourse project financing, acquisition financing, borrowing base lending as well as corporate financing.

Elizabeth attended Tenri University in Nara, studying a foreign language course, and represented the university in the Women's J-League for ice hockey. She was also a recipient of a Mitsui Educational Foundation scholarship in 2006.

Elizabeth's full profile can be read [here](#).



Graeme Gamble Partner
Corporate, Perth

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Graeme specialises in upstream mergers and acquisitions, and has a particular focus on the LNG sector. He is particularly well-versed in Australian and PNG oil and gas regulation, and has recently been involved in the Ichthys LNG Project. He has advised various Japanese trading houses and energy companies in the past.

Prior to joining Herbert Smith Freehills, Graeme was Senior Legal Counsel at Centrica Energy in the UK. He is a member of the Australian Mining and Petroleum Law Association and the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators.

Graeme's full profile can be read [here](#).



Gregg Rowan Partner
Dispute Resolution, Melbourne

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Gregg specialises in dispute resolution with a focus on the energy, natural resources, banking and aviation sectors, as well as class action litigation. He is based in the firm's Melbourne office, having moved from London at the beginning of 2019. He is admitted in Australia and England & Wales, and is a CEDR accredited mediator.

From 2009-2010, Gregg practised from the firm's Tokyo office and over the last decade has worked closely with many of our Japanese clients on their cross-border disputes. Whilst in London he chaired the firm's Japan desk for the EMEA region.

Gregg's full profile can be read [here](#).



OUR AUSTRALIA TEAM (CONTINUED)



Ian Williams Senior Adviser 🇯🇵
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Ian is a highly experienced M&A and joint venture specialist focusing on the mining, industrials and infrastructure sectors.

He is ranked in Chambers Global 2019 as a leading Corporate / M&A lawyer in Japan, as well as a leading Energy & Resources lawyer in Australia. Ian has been a Vice-President of the Australia Japan Business Co-operation Committee since August 2006, and was awarded the Foreign Minister's Commendation (外務大臣表彰) by the Japanese Foreign Ministry in 2016.

Ian worked at Kobe Steel for 5 years and played for the Kobe Steelers rugby team winning the Japan championship four times. He also represented the Australian Wallabies and Japan rugby teams. Ian holds 日本語能力試験二級 certification. Ian's full profile can be read [here](#).



Nicole Pedler Partner 🇯🇵
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Nicole practises in the areas of companies and securities law. She has extensive experience in public and private acquisitions and disposals, restructures and equity capital raisings.

Nicole has worked with Japanese trading houses and corporations throughout her career and currently advises a number of Japanese clients on their investments in Australia.

Nicole studied Japanese at university, undertaking a student exchange at a university in Tokyo and has basic written and spoken Japanese skills.

Nicole's full profile can be read [here](#).



Steven Rice Special Counsel
Corporate, Sydney

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Steven has extensive experience in Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act matters, including in the practical application of the financial services and markets provisions of the Corporations Act. Steven has advised financial advisers, brokers, asset managers and investment and commercial banks.

Steven joined Herbert Smith Freehills from ASIC. Steven's experience at ASIC encompassed responsibility for complex and significant financial services and markets transactions and advice matters, mergers and acquisitions, corporate fundraising, investigations and enforcement, anti-money laundering, and prudential regulation, and gives him a rare insight into complex legal and compliance issues.

Steven is admitted as a legal practitioner in New South Wales and Federal Courts in Australia, and is also a Chartered Accountant. Steven participates in the ASIC Corporate Finance Liaison meetings, and presents regularly to professional forums about current financial services and markets and regulatory matters. Steven's full profile can be read [here](#). Steven's full profile can be read [here](#).



Kate Bower Senior Associate 🇯🇵
Dispute Resolution, Perth

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Kate specialises in construction disputes and has over 10 years' experience working on construction related matters in the LNG, mining, oil, energy and resources sectors.

Kate has undertaken secondments with international mining and major oil and gas companies. She has acted for Japanese contractors on mining projects and conducted negotiations for Japanese trading houses on resources projects.

Kate holds 日本語能力試験一級 certification.

Kate's full profile can be read [here](#).



OUR AUSTRALIA TEAM (CONTINUED)



Timothy Stutt Senior Associate
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Timothy practises corporations law and specialises in corporate governance. He has extensive experience advising large companies in relation to environmental, social and governance (ESG) matters, particularly with respect to disclosure and risk management, and has co-authored several publications in relation to shareholder rights and activism (including in *Chambers* and *The Law Reviews*).

Timothy also has previous experience in the financial industry, having worked as an analyst for a Japan-focused investment manager based in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In 2010, Timothy was one of two Australians to receive a Young Leaders' Program scholarship from the Japanese Ministry of Education to study for his Masters of Business Administration (MBA) at Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo. He also holds Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Commerce degrees from Monash University, Melbourne. Timothy's full profile can read [here](#).



Ravi Arora Senior Associate
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Ravi has worked in Australia and Japan supporting leading banks, financial institutions, developers, sponsors and listed and unlisted corporations on a variety of corporate projects and financing transactions.

His exposure to multiple aspects and experience with cross-border elements of large-scale corporate financings, infrastructure projects, complex project financings and corporate restructurings allows him to deliver seamless, timely and commercial advice to clients.

Ravi has undertaken secondments to Rail Projects Victoria (an administrative division of the Victorian Government) as well as a leading Japanese trading company. These secondments have further enhanced his understanding of the role of in-house legal groups within a business environment, the commercial context of both delivering and relying on legal advice within a business, and his overall commercial acumen. Ravi's full profile can read [here](#).



Hiroko Ito Solicitor ■
FREP Finance, Sydney

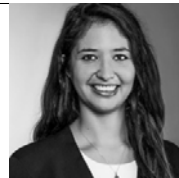
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Hiroko is a finance lawyer who was previously a member of the Tokyo office of Herbert Smith Freehills.

Prior to joining Herbert Smith Freehills, she gained experience working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Embassy of Japan in Australia as a diplomat.

Since joining the firm, she has been working closely with Japanese corporations, including trading houses conducting business in Australia. Hiroko was born in Japan and completed her law degrees in Japan and Sydney.

Hiroko is a native Japanese speaker, and is also proficient in English, French and Russian. Hiroko's full profile can be read [here](#).



Elodie Nadon Solicitor
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Elodie is a solicitor in the Melbourne Corporate practice group, specialising in public and private M&A. She has experience assisting both domestic and international clients on a broad spectrum of large and small corporate matters, including acquisitions, schemes of arrangements and restructurings.

In 2018, Elodie completed a six month secondment in the Tokyo office, where she gained exposure assisting Japanese trading houses in their outbound investments and key Japanese corporations on cross-border energy deals.

She is undertaking a Supreme Court associateship.



Oliver Cook Solicitor
Dispute Resolution, Brisbane

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Oliver is a solicitor in the Disputes practice in Brisbane. He previously worked for 6 months in the Dispute Resolution team in the Tokyo office. Oliver has experience in international arbitrations and cross border disputes, and has worked on disputes in a range of Australian courts. Oliver was a Judge's Associate in the Supreme Court of Queensland before joining Herbert Smith Freehills.

Oliver's full profile can be read [here](#).



Lara Howden Solicitor
Corporate, Melbourne

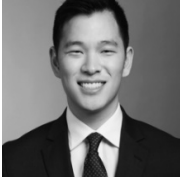
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Lara is a solicitor in the Melbourne Corporate practice group specialising in private and public M&A. She has a broad range of experience working for private equity investors, funds and blue-chip Australian and international clients, as well as advising on complex cross-border transactions across South East Asia.

Lara has basic Japanese language skills, having attained a Diploma of Languages from Monash University specialising in Japanese language, and previously having completed Japanese language study programs in Kobe and at Kyushu University.



OUR AUSTRALIA TEAM (CONTINUED)

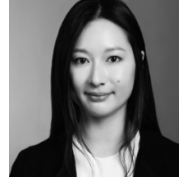


Tatsuki Shiratsuchi Solicitor 
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Tatsuki is a solicitor in the Corporate M&A team in Brisbane. He has experience working on cross-border transactions and mergers and acquisitions both for private and public companies. Tatsuki has a particular focus on Japanese investment into Australia across a variety of sectors. He has experience assisting Japanese trading houses, TYO-listed public companies and has advised companies negotiating with Japanese counterparties.

Tatsuki is fluent in Japanese.



Lauren Woo Solicitor 
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Lauren is a solicitor in our Brisbane Corporate M&A team. She has previously worked for 6 months in the Tokyo Corporate team. Lauren's experience includes acquisitions and sales (public and private M&A), project development (including tender contracts and procurement contracts), real estate related FIRB applications and the sale and purchase of commercial properties.

Lauren works closely with Japanese companies on their investments into Australia, Asia and Europe. She has basic Japanese language skills and has previously obtained 日本語能力試験三級 certification.



Peter Keeves Solicitor
Dispute Resolution, Perth

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Peter is a solicitor in our Perth Dispute Resolution team. He has previously worked for 6 months in our Tokyo Dispute Resolution and Corporate Crime and Investigation team, and continues to work with our Tokyo, Hong Kong and Indonesian offices on corporate crime and investigation matters.

Peter has experience in international arbitrations and cross border disputes, as well as disputes in a range of Australian courts, in respect of commercial disputes and insolvency matters.



Sorin Ridgway-Browne Solicitor 
Energy & Resources, Sydney

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Sorin is a solicitor in our Sydney Office. He has previously worked in the Core Finance team where he had exposure to aircraft financing for a large Japanese bank.

Prior to joining Herbert Smith Freehills, Sorin worked in Japan for several years including at a Swiss-Japanese pharmaceutical company and a Japanese trading house.

Sorin speaks fluent Japanese and holds 日本語能力試験一級 certification.



Sakura Kajimura Solicitor 
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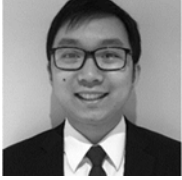
Sakura is a solicitor in our Perth office and has experience in the Corporate and Dispute Resolution practice areas. She has assisted both domestic and international clients on private acquisitions and disposals, equity capital raisings, and restructuring and insolvency. Sakura also has experience assisting Japanese trading houses on transactions in the oil and gas sector.

Sakura is a native English and Japanese speaker.



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OUR AUSTRALIA TEAM (CONTINUED)



Clarence Ma Graduate 

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Clarence is a Graduate in the Sydney office.

Clarence holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of International Studies (International Relations) from the University of New South Wales, Australia. In university, Clarence undertook a student exchange at the University of Tokyo, supported by the Australian Government's New Colombo Plan Scholarship.

Clarence holds 日本語能力試験一級 certification.



Tatsuaki Tomiyama Graduate 

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Tatsuaki is a Graduate in the Sydney Office. He has previously worked in the firm's disputes team, where he worked on a major lawsuit against a multinational Japanese corporation.

Prior to joining Herbert Smith Freehills, Tatsuaki worked internationally in the U.S., Japan, and Africa for several years, including at a United Nations agency working with donor countries to improve governance and security in conflict areas.

Tatsuaki is a native Japanese speaker, and speaks fluent English and basic Spanish.



Edward Watson Graduate 

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Edward is a Graduate in the Brisbane office. He has previously worked in the firm's Environment, Planning and Communities team. Before commencing as a Graduate, Edward spent three years working closely with the Australia-Japan Practice team as a paralegal, where he assisted the Corporate team in Brisbane on various Japanese client matters and also worked briefly in the firm's Tokyo office.

Prior to joining Herbert Smith Freehills, Edward interned for several months in the Tokyo office of a Member of the House of Representatives.

Edward speaks fluent Japanese and holds 日本語能力試験一級 certification.



OUR JAPAN TEAM



Damien Roberts Partner 🇯🇵
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Damien is a corporate / M&A lawyer with particular expertise in consumer, resources and infrastructure and is ranked as a Japan-based expert for Australia Corporate / M&A by *Chambers Global 2019*.

He has extensive experience working in both Australia and Japan advising Japanese corporations, trading houses and public bodies on their outbound corporate transactions, including business acquisitions and joint ventures.

Damien is a Registered Foreign Attorney in Japan (*Gaikokuho Jimu Bengoshi*) and a qualified simultaneous interpreter and has held 日本語能力試験一級 certification for over two decades.

Damien's full profile can be read [here](#).



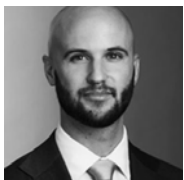
Tom Bowes Senior Associate
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Tom is a senior associate in our Corporate practice specialising in mining and infrastructure projects, particularly in the power and renewable energy development sectors. He worked in the projects and infrastructure division of a major Japanese trading house in Tokyo on IPP developments and M&A across 20 different jurisdictions, including Australia.

He is currently on secondment to the Tokyo headquarters of a Japanese company.

Tom's full profile can be read [here](#).



Patrick Corrigan Senior Associate
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Patrick is a senior associate in our Corporate practice group. He specialises in onshore and offshore oil and gas, mining, energy and infrastructure.

Patrick joined the Tokyo office in September 2019, prior to which he worked in the firm's Perth office advising Australian, international and Japanese energy and resource companies on a wide variety of matters including public and private M&A, project development, offtake and sale agreements and general corporate matters.

Patrick's full profile can be read [here](#).



Andrew Blacoe Partner
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Andrew has extensive experience and expertise advising clients on complex international and cross-border transactions in the metals and minerals, power and petroleum sectors.

He has lived in both Tokyo and Sydney for over 10 years and has specific expertise advising Japanese corporations on their M&A, project development and finance transactions in the energy and resources sector.

Andrew was seconded to a major Japanese trading house in Tokyo for 2 years.

Andrew's full profile can be read [here](#).



Joel Rheuben Senior Associate 🇯🇵
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Joel is a senior associate within Herbert Smith Freehills' competition, regulatory and trade practice in Tokyo, having previously worked in Brussels and London. Joel has represented a number of global and Japanese clients in relation to the merger control aspects of their transactions, as well as antitrust investigations by the European Commission and other regulators

Joel is admitted to practice in New South Wales, Australia and as a solicitor in England and Wales and Ireland. He is a fluent Japanese speaker, having held 日本語能力試験一級 certification for more than 15 years, and is a graduate of the University of Tokyo.

Joel's full profile can be read [here](#).



Jennifer Wu Senior Associate
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Jennifer is a senior associate predominantly focussed on the energy, resources and infrastructure sectors. Previously based in the firm's Sydney office, she joined the Tokyo office in February 2019.

Jennifer has advised several Japanese trading houses and major companies on overseas energy joint ventures and infrastructure investments. Her experience also includes advising on M&A transactions, project development, and operational and regulatory matters.

Jennifer's full profile can be read [here](#).



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OUR JAPAN TEAM (CONTINUED)



Ryu Long Associate 
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Ryu is an associate in the Corporate practice at Herbert Smith Freehills Tokyo. Ryu has experience in advising Japanese and international clients, including Japanese trading houses, on a broad range of corporate and commercial matters.

Ryu is dual-qualified to practice in the Supreme Court of New South Wales, Australia and as a solicitor in England and Wales. He is a native English speaker and speaks Japanese fluently.

Ryu's full profile can be read [here](#).