



HERBERT  
SMITH  
FREEHILLS



## **ERIN WAKELIN**

MANAGING PARTNER

[Sydney](#)  
[Australia](#)

Erin is a project finance specialist with experience in a broad range of transactions.

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## **BACKGROUND**

Erin holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Queensland. She joined Freehills in 2003 and became a partner in January 2005.

## **KEY SERVICES**

Project Finance  
Acquisition and Leveraged finance

## **KEY SECTORS**

Infrastructure  
Mining

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## **EXPERIENCE**

Erin has extensive experience in project and infrastructure finance matters, including public private partnerships. Erin also advises in relation to the financing for the acquisition of infrastructure assets.

Transactions in which Erin has been involved include the financing of projects, assets and acquisitions in sectors such as transport, healthcare, natural resources, social infrastructure, prisons and waste management. She has advised clients in Australia, Japan, Canada, Europe, Singapore, USA, Chile and the United Kingdom.

Erin is recommended in Asia Pacific Legal 500 – 2012 as *'first choice for project finance'*, has been voted by peers as one of Australia's Best Lawyers in The Best Lawyers in Australia for her work in Banking and Finance Law, Construction/Infrastructure Law, Project Finance and Development Practice, Energy Law, Derivatives and Financial Institutions (2012 - 2020), is nominated as a leading lawyer in Project Finance, Banking and Mergers & Acquisitions in IFLR1000 (2016) and is named as a leading individual in the Legal 500 2018.

In Chambers Asia-Pacific 2016, Erin is described as *"very commercially focused,"* with client comments including: *"Impressive is not a strong enough word for Erin, she is a valued adviser to me and a talented team leader."* In Asia Pacific Legal 500 2017 Erin was named a leading individual for Project Finance (Australia) with the comment that she has the *'ability to manage a huge amount of work while maintaining a calm approach'*. In the Legal 500 2018, Erin is named as a leading individual with the comment that Erin is *'one of the best - very commercial in her approach and always available to provide urgent advice'*.

Erin's experience includes advising:

- The Project Company in relation to ongoing aspects of the A\$2.5 billion Sydney Light Rail PPP Project including the 2019 restructure of the Project Documents and amendments to the Finance Documents to accommodate a staged completion
- The lenders to Macquarie Group Limited of £2 billion loan facilities, including two green loan tranches. This was the first 'green loan' (being a loan under the APLMA Green Loan Principles) issued in Australia and the first green loan with a financial institution as borrower
- The Momentum Trains consortium in relation to the financing for the Regional Rail PPP Project involving delivery of a new regional rail fleet and a new maintenance facility
- funds managed by Brookfield and its institutional co-investors, through a joint venture with Qube Holdings, on the acquisition financing for Asciano Limited's Patricks Terminals business for approximately A\$2.9 billion by way of scheme of arrangement
- The successful consortium on the A\$5.5 billion limited recourse financing package for its A\$10.258 billion acquisition of the TransGrid high voltage electricity transmission network from the NSW Government, and for TransGrid in relation to its \$4.21 billion refinancing, its 2017 US Private Placement, and its ongoing financing arrangements
- The Project Company in relation to the \$2.5 billion refinancing and other ongoing aspects of the new Royal Adelaide Hospital

- Successful consortia in relation to the Regional Rail PPP Project (NSW), the New Grafton Correctional Centre PPP Project (NSW), Capital Metro Project (ACT), the New Schools PPP (Vic), East West Link Project (Vic), the New Bendigo Hospital Project (Vic), the NSW Sydney International Convention Centre PPP (NSW), the New Royal Adelaide Hospital PPP Project (SA), the Long Bay Prison and Forensic Hospitals Project (NSW) and the Orange and Associated Health Services PPP (NSW)