

Book Review

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Reviewed by Morry Ross, Molinocahill Lawyers Pty Ltd

Construction Law in Australia 3rd Edition

Ian Bailey SC and Matthew Bell, *Construction Law in Australia* (3rd edn), 2011, Thomson Reuters (Professional), pb \$119.95.

In *Construction Law in Australia*, Professor Ian Bailey SC and Matthew Bell again succeed in providing a concise, yet detailed, text which explores the central issues in the increasingly specialised field of construction law. In this third edition, the authors not only incorporate new legal developments since the last edition, but also usefully illustrate how those developments impact on traditional construction law concepts and established norms. It is a must-read for construction law practitioners, teachers and students alike.

The authors begin with an overview of the Australian legal landscape and its application to the field of construction law. They go on to consider the participants in the construction industry and describe the role that each participant plays in a typical project. The legal relationships between those participants is further explored in the next chapter, which introduces the unique genre of construction contracts, illustrates the primary role of contract law in the industry and considers the multitude of legal issues which typically arise in those contracts.

After ensuring that the reader is well acquainted with the many legal facets of the construction industry, the authors introduce the concept of procurement. This chapter considers key issues which underlie considerations of risk allocation between contracting parties. Naturally, this leads to a discussion of a variety of practical issues which arise in construction projects.

The authors conclude with an overview of the role and regulation of professionals in the construction industry and dispute avoidance, management and resolution. The infamous complexity of construction disputes is presumed to be the reason behind the allocation of the text's entire final chapter to the conduct of construction disputes.

Coupled with the general introduction to Australian law at the beginning of the text, a section of reference papers at the end of the text enables the reader to gain an understanding of the entire history of construction law. This aspect of the text is particularly useful for those unfamiliar with the uniqueness of construction law and a comprehensive reading will no doubt show that the 13 years since the last edition was well worth the wait.