

## Stewart Robertson | Partner

Stewart specialises in acquisition, leveraged and general corporate finance, with additional expertise in property finance. Acting for large corporates, senior lenders, mezzanine lenders and private equity funds, he has advised on some of the largest and most complex leveraged transactions in the Australian market. He has both an excellent track record and a recognised reputation in the acquisition finance field. In the property sector, Stewart acts for major Australian banks, international financial institutions, and leading corporations, on acquisition funding, funding to REITs and property groups, as well as development, construction and project finance for major developments. Post GFC, Stewart has also been active in the distressed debt market, dealing with a number of significant debt restructures.

### EXPERTISE

Areas of expertise include:

#### Acquisition Finance

A market-leader in acquisition finance, Stewart has advised on some of the largest and most complex Australian and cross-border acquisitions and leveraged buy-outs. His leading clients span senior bank syndicates, offshore purchasers, mezzanine lenders and private equity funds. Some of Stewart's headline deals include acting for Goldman Sachs JBWere as arrangers on the PBL/Nine Media deal, the lending syndicate for Petbarn's acquisition of City Farmers, the lenders for GHD's offshore merger with Conestoga-Rovers, the international and domestic MLAs to the underbidder for Healthscope Limited, the banking syndicate on Archer's acquisition of Gull Petroleum and the senior banking syndicate to UK listed Healthcare Locums Plc on its acquisition of Healthcare Australia Holdings.

#### Corporate Finance

Stewart acts for borrowers and financiers on syndicated and bilateral finance transactions across a wide range of industries. He has a particularly strong track record acting for international and national bank syndicates on major acquisition deals, such as on KKR's bid for Healthscope Limited, Archer's acquisition of Gull Petroleum, and Healthcare Locums Plc's acquisition of Healthcare Australia Holdings. He has acted for large corporates such as Oil Search Limited and for syndicates and financiers on various corporate, acquisition and cross-



### SYDNEY

T +61 2 9921 4962

M +61 400 167 101

F +61 2 9921 8010

Email

### RELATED SERVICES

- Leveraged and Acquisition Finance
- Corporate Finance
- Structured Finance
- Distressed Debt Trading and Acquisitions
- Projects and Project Finance
- Finance

### RELATED INDUSTRIES

- Financial Services

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border facilities for SEEK Limited, Cochlear Limited, AWE Limited, iiNet Limited, MLC, On-Site (Next Capital), Centric Wealth (CHAMP), Hastie Limited, Norton Gold Limited, Namoi Cotton and SAI Global Limited. He also acts for financiers on corporate finance deals in the acquisition of distressed competitor assets. Stewart is recognised as a leading lawyer for acquisition finance by major legal directories such as Chambers Global and Chambers Asia Pacific.

### **Leveraged Finance**

A leading acquisition finance lawyer, Stewart has advised on numerous significant leveraged finance deals. He acted for Goldman Sachs JBWere as arrangers on the award-winning PBL Media deal, the international and domestic MLAs to the underbidder for Healthscope Limited, the banking syndicate on Archer's acquisition of Gull Petroleum, the senior banking syndicate to UK listed Healthcare Locums Plc on its acquisition of Healthcare Australia Holdings and J.P. Morgan as lead arranger for mezzanine facilities provided to McAleese Transport.

### **Main Bio**

Stewart Robertson is a leading specialist in acquisition, syndicated, corporate and structured property finance, advising on some of the largest and most complex acquisitions in the Australian market.

He acts for senior bank syndicates, mezzanine lenders, offshore purchasers and private equity funds on Australian and cross-border acquisitions, leveraged buy-outs and general corporate finance, as well as for financiers and arrangers on structured property finance transactions. Stewart's expertise also includes syndicated and bilateral finance transactions across a wide range of industries; acquisition of distressed competitor assets; complex debt restructuring; property acquisition, development, construction and project funding; and onshore and offshore lending to REITs and property groups.

Amongst his headline deals is the PBL/Nine Media deal, Petbarn's acquisition of City Farmers, GHD's offshore merger with Conestoga-Rovers, Oil Search Limited's self arranged syndicated facilities and acting for the syndicate of lenders to Hastie Limited, SEEK Limited, iiNet Limited and AWE Limited.

His leading client list includes ANZ, CBA, J.P. Morgan, NAB, Oil Search Limited, Propel Investments, Quadrant and Westpac.

Stewart's excellent track record is recognised by major legal directories with Chambers Global and Chambers Asia Pacific naming him a leading lawyer for acquisition finance.

### **Private Equity**

Stewart's impressive track record in acquisition finance includes major private equity deals for local private equity funds and senior and mezzanine

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financiers. His deal highlights include acting for Goldman Sachs JBWere as arrangers on the PBL/Nine Media deal, the international and domestic MLAs to the underbidder for Healthscope Limited, and the banking syndicate on Archer's acquisition of Gull Petroleum. Stewart has advised private equity funds, such as Quadrant, on such deals as the MBOs of Red Rooster and Oporto Burgers, The Jewellery Group, IVF Australia, Melbourne IVF, and the leveraged acquisitions of the 'Munday' and 'Lassiters' group of pubs.

### Property Finance

In addition to his leading acquisition and corporate finance practice, Stewart has specific expertise in property finance. He acts for major Australian banks, international financial institutions, and leading corporations across property sector acquisition funding as well as development, construction and project finance. Stewart also acts on onshore and offshore lending to property trusts (REITs) and groups, as well as significant debt restructuring transactions.

### Qualifications

- BCOM, LLB, LLM (HONS)

### Admissions

- NZ
- UK
- NSW

### Awards and Recognition

Leading Individual, Acquisition Finance - Chambers Asia Pacific: 2012, 2013

Well respected amongst both his clients and peers, Stewart Robertson handles a range of acquisition, leveraged and corporate finance work. Most recently he acted for a syndicate of foreign and domestic banks on a highly complex restructuring of Hastie Group's financing arrangements - Chambers Asia Pacific 2013

Leading Individual, Acquisition Finance - Chambers Global: 2012, 2013

Up and Coming, Acquisition Finance - Chambers Asia Pacific: 2010, 2011

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Up and Coming, Acquisition Finance - Chambers Global: 2010, 2011

Recommended, Banking and Finance - Best Lawyer: 2013, 2014

'Set apart by his pragmatic approach', Stewart produces 'first class work' -  
Legal 500 Asia Pacific: 2010/11, 2011/12

### PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

#### **Lending and taking security in Australia**

May 2013

Finance Partners **Matthew Cunningham, Daniel Marks, Leigh De Jong** and **Stewart Robertson** provide a Q&A guide to lending and taking security in Australia. This article is part of the *PLC Multi-Jurisdictional Guide to Finance 2013*.