



Leading commercial firm  
in Papua New Guinea

*Chambers Global 2008*

## On the ground across Asia

Allens Arthur Robinson (**Allens**) established its Port Moresby office in early 1994 as a full-service business law firm. We practice local and international law and represent many Papua New Guinean, foreign and multinational companies in their investments and business interests, both in Papua New Guinea and overseas.

We are experienced in energy, resources and infrastructure; corporate and commercial; banking and finance; international trade; privatisation; litigation and dispute resolution; foreign direct investment; employment law; project finance; and capital markets.

We aim to provide effective commercial solutions to enable our clients to be leaders in their respective fields. This is complemented by our close relationships at all levels of commerce, government and regulatory authorities in PNG.

Our PNG office is supported by a number of partners and lawyers in Australia with extensive experience in PNG legal practice. We have consistently been rated as a first-tier firm in PNG by *Chambers Global*.

### Mining and resources

Allens has been at the forefront of many significant energy and resources projects in PNG and throughout the Asia region, having played a significant role for either government, financiers, developers or operators on the following:

**Bougainville copper** – Acted for the project sponsors in the establishment and financing of the Bougainville gold and copper project. Allens continued to act for Bougainville Copper in connection with the project until its closure due to civil unrest in 1989. With the recent formation of the Autonomous Bougainville Government the firm provided advice in relation to a review of the Bougainville Copper Agreement.

**Ok Tedi** – Acted for Ok Tedi Mining in connection with the establishment and project financing of the Ok Tedi gold and copper project and subsequently advised BHP Billiton on their exit from the project, including on arrangements to facilitate the transfer of their 52 per cent shareholding in Ok Tedi Mining to a program company enabling sustainable development within Western Province and PNG generally.

**PNG ING project** – Allens is ExxonMobil's PNG counsel on this \$US10 billion-plus transaction, to develop PNG's first liquefied natural gas (LNG) project. Our team secured a fiscal and legal agreement on the project with the PNG Government.



**Mining mergers** – Advised on the mergers of Oil Search Limited and Orogen Minerals Limited, Nuigini Mining Limited and Lihir Gold Limited, and Highlands Gold and Placer Dome Inc (Canada).

## Banking and finance

**Eda Oil financing** – Advising the Commonwealth Bank of Australia with a US\$15 million facility to PNG Government owned Eda Oil Limited to fund its operational requirements in the PNG oilfields. Advised on financing documentation, security arrangements and consents and approvals.

**Oil search refinancing** – Acted for ABN AMRO Australia, Credit Agricole Indosuez, and SG Australia in refinancing an exploration and development loan facility for Oil Search Limited. The refinancing consisted of a US\$200 million five-year term loan and a US\$100 million four-year revolver provided to Oil Search Limited.

## Government

**Partial privatisation of MVIL limited** – Acted for the Independent Public Business Corporation of Papua New Guinea in the trade sale of 51 per cent of the shares in Motor Vehicles Insurance Limited.

**Consumer & competition law reform** – Advised the Government on the establishment of an overarching competition law; and prepared the legislation to set up the Independent Consumer & Competition Commission.

**Industry regulatory reform** – Advised the PNG Government on reform of the regulatory framework in which a number of its monopoly utilities operated, including electricity, telecommunications, post, harbours and water.

**Privatisation of Air Nuigini** – Advised the Privatisation Commission in the proposed privatisation of Air Niugini.

## Commercial

**Acquisition of EM-TV** – Acted for Fiji TV in the acquisition of EM-TV, the sole free-to-air TV broadcaster in PNG.

**Rural development bank restructuring** – Advising the Rural Development Bank Limited on its lending book audit and recovery, restructuring into commercial banking operations and drafting new legislation to implement new corporate governance controls and provide for commercial banking operations.

**Acquisition PNG home finance** – Advising Kina Finance Limited in relation to its acquisition of specialist home finance company, PNG Home Finance Limited.

**Burns Philp** – Advising Burns Philp & Co. Ltd in relation to its acquisition of the PNG subsidiaries of Goodman Fielder as part of its acquisition of Goodman Fielder International.

**Air Niugini fleet rationalisation** – Advised Air Niugini in the rationalisation of its fleet of Airbus A300 aircraft, and later its transition to a Boeing 767 aircraft type.

## Litigation and alternative dispute resolution

**Rio Tinto/Bougainville** – Advising in connection with the current litigation brought by the landowners in the US courts in connection with Rio Tinto's involvement with the Panguna Mine in Bougainville.

**Power supply mediation** – Representing PNG Power Limited in a mediation with a private power producer concerning the structure of the power supply contract and the producer's technical performance.

## Contacts

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