The World at Your Doorstep

Co-Chairs:
Michael Butler (Finlaysons)
Roger Saxton (Connor & Co)

Host Committee:
IPBA Australian-New Zealand Regional Forum

This Regional Event will continue the IPBA’s tradition of providing stimulating debate and exploration of topical issues and developments relevant to those with a legal practice or interest in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The central focus of this Event will be on some of the Australian legal and tax issues facing foreign investors from the Asia-Pacific Region who wish to invest and operate in Australasia.

We are fortunate to have a fantastic line-up of speakers and look forward to seeing you at this Complimentary Event (for which CLE points will be available).

3.00pm Registration / Coffee
3.30pm Introduction from Co-Chairs
3.40pm Session 1
FIRB & Regulatory Issues for North Asia Investors in Australia
Ben Smith (Minter Ellison)
• Current approach FIRB has to bidders from North Asia
• Interaction between Australian and offshore regulatory/foreign investment approvals
• How buy- and sell-side advisers should run sale processes when bidders require FIRB and/or offshore regulatory approvals
4.30pm Session 2
Cryptocurrencies & ICOs
Jim FitzSimons (Bird & Bird)
• Blockchain fundamentals
• Understanding cryptocurrencies and cryptotokens
• Smart contracts: threat or opportunity?
• ICOs and prospectuses
• Practical understanding of transactions—how do things actually work in this space?
5.20pm Session 3
Tax Issues for Foreign Property Investors in Australia—Recent Developments
Jessica Pengelly (Finlaysons)
Overview of new Federal, State & Territory taxes and charges on purchases and ownership of Australian real property by foreign persons, including:
• Transfer duty and land tax surcharges
• Vacant residential property fees and taxes
• Foreign resident capital gains tax withholding tax (FRCGTWHT)
• Removal of CGT “main residence” exemption for non-residents
• ATO record-matching to identify tax non-compliance
6.00pm Session 4
Investing Across the Ditch – Issues Facing Australian Investors
Jai Nario (Chapman Tripp)
• Effective structuring of NZ investments – commercial and tax considerations
• Trends & insights into NZ’s investment scene
• Common regulatory issues
6.40pm Close & Refreshments