

Contractual Awareness

Masterclass



in ²*Dredging*
Solutions adding value



Contractual Awareness

Masterclass

Master the management of subsurface risks while protecting contractual entitlements and project outcomes. Build the commercial awareness needed to navigate contract complexity, ensuring dredging and marine projects are delivered successfully with fewer disputes.

This new masterclass complements [in2Dredging Pty Ltd's](#) (i2D) established Dredging and Reclamation (D&R) masterclass, recognising that the existing technically focused *Effective Contract Management* module alone did not sufficiently equip dredging professionals in a field where technical and commercial aspects are tightly interwoven.

The Contractual Awareness Masterclass therefore addresses contractual exposure and commercial realities of the often overlooked consequences of inadequate site investigations, unreliable site data or insufficient contractor preparedness. It bridges the gap between technical uncertainties and the contractual obligations that govern them.

Given the high stakes nature of dredging projects, where technical precision, contractual clarity, and operational foresight determine success, this

masterclass also explores how lessons from expert witness roles in major disputes can sharpen contract management and project delivery practices. Drawing on real-world arbitration and court experience, i2D highlights recurring pitfalls such as misaligned equipment capabilities, misinterpreted site conditions, and missed opportunities for early risk identification.

Through anonymised case studies, participants will see how weak contractual language, poor-quality investigations, and over-reliance on disclaimers have led to claims, delays and costly disputes. The overarching goal is to equip project owners and consultants with forensic-level clarity that can be embedded into project planning and execution, long before disputes materialise.



Masterclass Programme

Course Sessions

The programme blends real-world case studies with contractual best practice, equipping participants with commercial insights directly related to technical realities.

Session 1: Source of Contract Disputes

Ground conditions are often a catalyst for disputes, but the real challenge lies in how contracts allocate and administer subsurface risks. This session explores:

- Definitions of adverse physical conditions and contractor obligations under major contract forms, namely FIDIC, Australian Standards (AS) and NEC
- Allocation of subsurface risks, clarifying obligations of employers and contractors
- How to prove entitlement and strengthen commercial positions
- Commercial strategies for protecting entitlements through effective records, inspections and use of digital tools such as geological digital twins, cloud-based archives and AI-driven analytics.

The emphasis is on reframing ground data from not only a technical issue, but also a commercial and contractual matter, enabling professionals to manage uncertainty without jeopardising their entitlements.

Session 2: Claims under Contracts

While adverse conditions may trigger claims, disputes are more often lost, or avoided, through contract administration. This session provides practical guidance on:

- Correctly identifying variations and scope creep to avoid claims under contracts

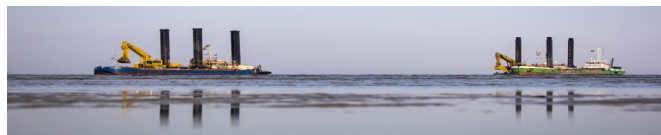
- Complying with notification procedures to preserve entitlements
- Avoiding common pitfalls in valuation and time-bar clauses and understanding how time-bars, though intended to promote efficiency, can be weaponised if misunderstood
- Strengthening negotiation positions through proactive contract administration.

Session 3: From Disputes to Insights

This session reveals how expert witness methodologies can enhance contract management and project delivery, including:

- Independent analysis of production estimates, equipment suitability and site conditions to improve tender evaluations and set defensible baselines
- Lessons from real disputes to help participants structure contracts proactively and monitor performance with litigation level precision
- Why lumpsum contracts may provide a false sense of security
- A behind-the-scenes look at dispute resolution through the expert witness lens
- Practical steps for embedding forensic analysis of geotechnical data, production performance and contract baselines into projects, preventing disputes before they escalate

By learning from disputes rather than repeating them, participants will be equipped to avoid costly surprises and strengthen overall project resilience.



Masterclass Details

Who should attend?

Marine and dredging projects are uniquely exposed to subsurface uncertainty and contractual risks. Recognising these challenges, this masterclass is tailored for a broad range of project and head office staff including **superintendents, project managers, project engineers, production estimators, engineering geologists, surveyors, contract administrators, quantity surveyors** and various **members of both contractor and client project delivery teams** engaged in dredging and related marine works. The key masterclass takeaways will strengthen the attendees commercial awareness by giving practical examples of how to apply knowledge in their own work environment.

By attending this masterclass, participants will:

- Learn how to interpret and frame subsurface risk in contractual terms
- Acquire practical strategies to reduce disputes, improve project delivery and protect entitlements
- Build confidence in administering contracts under FIDIC, AS and NEC formats.

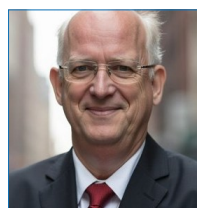
For **Board members and senior leaders**, the masterclass demonstrates how ground conditions and contract administration consistently rank among the most significant drivers of cost escalation and disputes in marine and dredging projects.

The course further shows participants how to:

- Reduce claims and protect profitability
- Enhance delivery certainty in high-risk operating environments
- Align project teams to manage both technical realities and contractual obligations with clarity and consistency

When and where?

- From anywhere in the world where there is access to the internet
- For course dates and times, as well as course costs, refer to our [Training](#) webpage.



Who is the Presenter David Kinlan?

*Bachelor degree in Quantity Surveying,
Essex Institute of High Education, UK*

- Civil Engineering Contracts Manager with over 40 years experience in civil and infrastructure projects.
- Holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Arbitration.
- Focusses on contracts management and derisking projects at an early stage, resolving disputes in a fair and timely manner.
- Author of numerous articles in the *Civil Engineering Surveyor* magazine and *Terra et Aqua*, a leading dredging industry publication.



Who is the Presenter Simon Burgmans?

*Master of Science in Civil Engineering
(specialising in dredging), Delft
University of Technology, Netherlands*

- Over 20 years' experience in dredging, mining and oil and gas, in both engineering and estimating, and execution phases of projects.
- Founder of dredging consultancy [in2Dredging Pty Ltd](#) and Principal Dredging Consultant.



Contact Us

We are here to help

If you would like to discover how we can assist you to successfully achieve your projects' goals, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Our Approach as Dredging Consultants

- Flexible and self-motivated approach
- Global 24/7 support
- Competitive rates
- Clear and effective communication
- Academic and field expertise enabling innovation
- Confidentiality and integrity

Dredging Support

- Projects are completed safely, cost-effectively and successfully
- Contractors deliver operational improvements
- Engineers address all requirements through suitable design

Our Dredging Consultancy Services

- Project and Programme Management
- Advanced Dredging Engineering
- Reliable Dredging Estimation
- Insightful Geographic Data Processing
- Environmental Services
- Cutting-edge [Research, Development & Innovation](#)
- Impartial Expert Witness Services
- Comprehensive [Dredging Training](#)

Key Contacts

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Offices

i2D's business offices are located in Perth, Australia.

