THE CONSTRUCTION CONTROL SERIES / 01

Best construction cost management software in Australia

Choose the system that can explain your next margin decision.



A profitable quote is only the starting point. The buying decision is whether the system can keep the estimate, purchasing, site labour and claims connected as the job changes—and explain the likely margin before close-out.

21 platforms. Seven practical tests. One useful shortlist.

A guide to comparing estimating, commitments, labour, claims and the financial handover—with a worked margin example and a reusable demo scorecard.

Published by Contractable, one of the vendors included. This is a sourced buying guide, not an independent ranking or hands-on certification of every product. Features, editions and integration scope should be confirmed with each vendor.

Sources reviewed 26 October 2026 · Next editorial review January 2027

01 / FIND YOUR FIT

Start with the way your business delivers work.

These are starting points, not fixed product boundaries or a ranking.

Project cost control

Compare Contractable, Planyard, LiveCosts, Buildlogic, Varicon and Styck where the estimate, purchasing and job costs need to stay connected.

Broader construction systems

Assess Archdesk, Procore, Jobpac Connect, Premier, BuildPass and Cheops when department-wide workflow, construction accounting or portfolio control is central.

Trade and builder workflows

Assess Simpro, AroFlo, Buildxact, NextMinute, JACK and Loop Logics against your mix of project work, service work, estimating and field administration.

Specialist workflows

Consider Neo for workforce operations, ProcurePro for procurement and Payapps for claims. Establish where the broader job-cost record will live.

Start with your operating model.

Match the shortlist to your project size, estimating complexity, purchasing approvals, site labour and claim cycle. Choose the workflow you need to control.

Before a demo: name your accounting system, typical job structure, claim cycle, field users and the one commercial decision you cannot make confidently today.

WHY SHORTLIST CONTRACTABLE / CONFIGURABLE CONTROL

Detail where it protects margin. Simplicity where it doesn't.

Your payment schedule shouldn't dictate how you manage the work. Contractable lets you structure the work breakup separately from the payment breakup, with cost tracking configured around the decisions your team needs to make.

WORK BREAKUP

How you deliver

Sections, Subsections, Tasks and Items describe the work and its priced scope.

COST TRACKING

Where you need visibility

Use a section or single cost bucket for a broad view. Attribute costs to individual tasks where detailed control matters.

PAYMENT BREAKUP

How you get paid

Present progress claims around the agreed commercial arrangement, separately from the delivery detail.

One project. Connected records.

The level of detail your decisions need.

Choose the right depth

Keep routine work simple. Track labour, plant, materials and contractor costs in detail where you need to understand the true cost of delivery.

Adapt during execution

Change the tracking approach as priorities change, including moving from individual task tracking to a single cost bucket or section-level attribution.

Review margin week by week

Where completed quantities and approved hours are captured, compare effort with the allowance. Review actual costs, open commitments and the cost of remaining work to understand whether forecast margin is improving or slipping.

Detailed productivity analysis depends on the quantities, hours and costs captured at that level. Changing the tracking method does not recreate task detail that was never recorded.

THE NEXT BUYING DECISION / DATA AND RESPONSIBLE AI

Give AI the job behind the numbers.

In a competitive construction market, the value of software extends beyond recording transactions. Choose a platform that connects project operations and financial data so it can support faster administration and better-informed decisions as your business grows.

A supplier bill becomes more useful when it carries the project, scope, cost allowance and order behind it. Approved labour becomes more informative when it connects to the work completed and the effort allowed. That context is the foundation for useful AI-supported analysis.

Connected records → Reviewed analysis → Better-informed action

Contractable's developing service opportunity is to turn those connected records into repeatable support: preparing administrative drafts, reviewing cost allocations, highlighting exceptions and helping teams assess productivity and forecast margin. Validate each use case against your records and measure time saved, correction rates and the usefulness of the decisions it supports.

Guardrails belong in the buying decision.

Access only what is needed

Define who and which AI services can access each project and financial record. Minimise personal information and protect commercially sensitive data.

Keep approval authority clear

Agree which outputs are drafts and which actions require an authorised person. Set explicit gates for orders, payroll, claims, payments and changes to financial records.

Make analysis traceable

Require source records, reporting dates and visible assumptions. Test accuracy, flag missing data and keep a record of corrections, approvals and actions.

Confirm how data is handled

Establish providers, processing locations, overseas disclosures, retention, deletion and any use of customer data for model training. Record these terms before enabling a service.

Match controls to obligations

Assess applicable privacy and contractual requirements, including client confidentiality. Agree notices, permitted uses, incident response and accountable owners; review them as services change.

These are requirements to verify with every provider, including Contractable. They are not a statement that every control is already implemented, a certification or a blanket compliance guarantee.

Privacy reference: OAIC guidance on commercially available AI products

CONTRACTABLE / SUPPORTED AI SERVICES

Supported intelligence, built around your operation.

We're developing AI-native services around this connected project data: repeatable analysis shaped around the commercial questions your business needs answered.

In development

A supported service pathway, built around configured project records and agreed human review.

01 Map the operation

Agree the work breakup, payment schedule, cost attribution and the decisions the analysis needs to support.

02 Prepare the records

Configure the platform, migrate agreed data and train the team to capture usable costs, quantities and approved effort.

03 Validate the analysis

Develop analysis against representative project records. Check mappings, calculations and exceptions with the people responsible for the job.

04 Establish the review rhythm

Agree the reporting scope, human review and responsibilities before repeating the process across projects.

The ambition is to make regular productivity, cost and margin analysis accessible without requiring every contractor to build a dedicated internal analysis team.

Discuss service scope, readiness, data requirements and human review during consultation. This is a development pathway, not a claim of autonomous commercial management.

Bring your work breakup and payment schedule. We'll show how Contractable can accommodate both.

Bring one quote. Follow the money through the job.

Book a construction workflow demo →

QUICK COMPARISON / 1 OF 3

The shortlist at a glance.

Workflow fit, accounting scope and local support matter more than a long list of ticks. Sources are linked in the register.

1. Contractable (publisher) · Project cost control

Accounting: Xero, MYOB, QuickBooks; confirm scope
Commercial model: Consultation-led quote
Australian context: Built in Sydney

2. Planyard · Project cost control

Accounting: Xero, QuickBooks, MYOB, Sage
Commercial model: Published per project manager
Australian context: Estonia HQ; confirm local support

3. LiveCosts · Project cost control

Accounting: Xero, QuickBooks, Sage
Commercial model: Quoted package / usage
Australian context: Ireland HQ; Buildsoft AU reseller and local support

4. Buildlogic · Project cost control

Accounting: Xero; MYOB in directory listing
Commercial model: Per user (directory)
Australian context: Australian owned (directory)

5. Archdesk · Broader construction systems

Accounting: Xero, QuickBooks, Sage, NetSuite
Commercial model: Quote
Australian context: UK entity; confirm AU support

6. Procore · Broader construction systems

Accounting: Xero, MYOB Advanced, QuickBooks, Sage
Commercial model: Quote; annual contract
Australian context: Sydney APAC office

7. Jobpac Connect · Broader construction systems

Accounting: Own general ledger
Commercial model: Quote
Australian context: Australian operating entity

Directory evidence is labelled. Australian product pages do not establish a local office. Confirm the package, integration scope and support arrangements in writing.

QUICK COMPARISON / 2 OF 3

The shortlist at a glance.

Workflow fit, accounting scope and local support matter more than a long list of ticks. Sources are linked in the register.

8. Premier · Broader construction systems

Accounting: Own construction accounting
Commercial model: Confirm licence and setup quote
Australian context: Australian product pages; office unverified

9. Simpro · Trade and builder workflows

Accounting: Xero, MYOB, QuickBooks
Commercial model: Quote; base plus add-ons
Australian context: Queensland office

10. AroFlo · Trade and builder workflows

Accounting: Xero, MYOB, QuickBooks
Commercial model: Published per user
Australian context: Melbourne HQ

11. Buildxact · Trade and builder workflows

Accounting: Xero, MYOB AccountRight, QuickBooks
Commercial model: Published plans
Australian context: Australian product and pricing pages

12. NextMinute · Trade and builder workflows

Accounting: Xero, MYOB, QuickBooks
Commercial model: Published by team size
Australian context: Sydney team; New Zealand founded

13. Payapps · Claims specialist

Accounting: Xero, MYOB, Jobpac Connect
Commercial model: Subcontractor plans / main-contractor quote
Australian context: Founded in Australia

14. Neo Intelligence (NeoConstruct.ai) · Workforce operations

Accounting: Payroll: Xero, MYOB, Jobpac, Cheops and others; confirm scope
Commercial model: Quoted workforce/package
Australian context: Australian subcontractor focus

Directory evidence is labelled. Australian product pages do not establish a local office. Confirm the package, integration scope and support arrangements in writing.

QUICK COMPARISON / 3 OF 3

The shortlist at a glance.

Workflow fit, accounting scope and local support matter more than a long list of ticks. Sources are linked in the register.

15. Varicon · Project cost control

Accounting: Xero, MYOB AccountRight/Business, QuickBooks Online
Commercial model: Quoted team/features
Australian context: Australian civil-contractor focus

16. Styck · Project cost control

Accounting: Xero, MYOB, QuickBooks; confirm edition and scope
Commercial model: Published single/multi-user plans
Australian context: Australian owned and operated

17. Loop Logics · Trade and builder workflows

Accounting: Xero, MYOB and Oracle NetSuite named; confirm scope
Commercial model: Quoted desktop/field users
Australian context: Australian and New Zealand market focus

18. JACK App · Trade and builder workflows

Accounting: Xero; confirm transaction and payroll scope
Commercial model: Published base plus user types
Australian context: Offered in Australia and New Zealand (also US and Canada)

19. BuildPass · Broader construction systems

Accounting: Xero and QuickBooks Online for finance
Commercial model: Quoted plans and added functional scope
Australian context: Australian offering; confirm proposed package

20. ProcurePro · Procurement specialist

Accounting: Jobpac and Cheops integrations named; confirm scope
Commercial model: Quoted annual licence plus implementation fee
Australian context: Australian main-contractor market served

21. Cheops · Broader construction systems

Accounting: Own construction financial ledger
Commercial model: Confirm module and implementation quote
Australian context: Australia and New Zealand construction focus

Directory evidence is labelled. Australian product pages do not establish a local office. Confirm the package, integration scope and support arrangements in writing.

MOBILE / CONTRACTABLE IN CONTEXT

The site should feed the budget. Not another inbox.

The useful question is what a site record lets the office do next. Can hours reach the right task, can a purchase carry its job context, and can the team see what needs review before relying on the budget?

Contractable Mobile: the field record belongs to the priced work

Connect the crew, the purchasing record and the working budget. Onboarding maps the handover to your operation.

Configured to your roles during onboarding

Contractable Mobile covers materials requests, goods receipts with docket and photo capture, task-completion updates with photos, and task-linked mobile WO references. Which of these each person can use is set by their role.

Plan the work

Give the crew scheduled work and task context. Confirm or amend hours against the work performed.

Record the site event

Capture purchasing information against the job and work, along with materials requests, goods receipts, dockets and completion photos.

Control the handover

Submitted hours need approval before actual cost. A draft PO or unpriced mobile WO reference is not itself a priced commitment.

Review the job position

Use approved labour and reviewed purchasing records alongside the estimate, variations and claims. Keep larger milestone subcontract administration on desktop.

Mobile WO control: authorised personnel can create a task-linked reference for a contractor invoice. That mobile action has no separate approval workflow. An unpriced reference does not establish a committed cost.

MOBILE COMPARISON / 1 OF 5

What can the crew do on a phone?

Vendor-published workflows; confirm edition, device and permissions. Contractable describes its own product. Unverified does not mean unavailable.

Contractable - Contractable Mobile: iOS / Android

Scheduled work and task timesheets; purchase capture with job/work attribution; materials requests; goods receipts with docket and photo capture; task-completion updates with photos; task-linked mobile WO references.

Demo check: Confirm which mobile functions each role can use. Approved hours become actual cost; a draft PO or unpriced WO reference is not a cost commitment. Larger milestone subcontracts remain on desktop.

Mobile evidence: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.contractable.link.app

Planyard - File-capture app; mobile time entry

Upload receipts, invoices and other project files. Vendor updates describe mobile-friendly timesheet submission.

Demo check: The November 2025 update described timesheets as a limited rollout. Confirm current access, app versus mobile browser, approval and budget attribution.

Mobile evidence: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.fizure.file_app

LiveCosts - LiveCosts mobile app

Log labour by project and phase; raise and email POs; record deliveries against orders. The app listing describes offline use for these actions.

Demo check: Test a partial delivery, reconnection and budget update; confirm Buildsoft support and package scope.

Mobile evidence: https://apps.apple.com/au/app/livecosts/id1506907931

Buildlogic - iOS / Android apps described

Timesheet entry and supervisor review; site diaries, action items and deliveries are described in its mobile suite.

Demo check: Confirm current app distribution, enabled modules and the approval-to-accounting handover.

Mobile evidence: https://www.buildlogic.com.au/software/mobile-functions/

Test time attribution, purchasing, corrections and reconnection on the actual device. Confirm mobile licences and module costs. Full sources are in the register.

MOBILE COMPARISON / 2 OF 5

What can the crew do on a phone?

Vendor-published workflows; confirm edition, device and permissions. Contractable describes its own product. Unverified does not mean unavailable.

Archdesk - Archdesk Lite: iOS / Android

Find a project and submit or browse project forms.

Demo check: Demonstrate the configured time or purchase form and its downstream effect; do not assume every desktop module is in Lite.

Mobile evidence: https://archdesk.com/mobile

Procore - Procore: iOS / Android

Field tools include drawings and timesheets; documentation describes offline viewing of cached items and syncing on reconnection.

Demo check: Confirm purchased tools and permissions. Trace a field record into the proposed cost-management configuration.

Mobile evidence: https://v2.support.procore.com/process-guides/getting-started-in-procore/go-mobile

Jobpac Connect - Jobpac Mobile

Enter individual time cards with job, cost centre and transaction codes; record time offline and submit later.

Demo check: Requires an invitation from Jobpac Connect; confirm approval, payroll and job-cost treatment.

Mobile evidence: https://help.trimble.com/doc/jobpac-connect/jobpac-connect/jobpac-mobile

Premier - Field and mobile offering

Individual or crew time, daily logs, employee expenses with receipts, and RFIs are described.

Demo check: Confirm Australian package, device support, approval routing and which functions work offline.

Mobile evidence: https://premiercs.com/au/features/field-mobile

Test time attribution, purchasing, corrections and reconnection on the actual device. Confirm mobile licences and module costs. Full sources are in the register.

MOBILE COMPARISON / 3 OF 5

What can the crew do on a phone?

Vendor-published workflows; confirm edition, device and permissions. Contractable describes its own product. Unverified does not mean unavailable.

Simpro - Simpro Mobile: iOS / Android

On-site job management, time entry, quotes, invoicing and payments are described.

Demo check: Confirm modules, mobile licences and permissions; demonstrate the commercial project and PO workflow you need.

Mobile evidence: https://www.simprogroup.com/features/field-service-mobile-app

AroFlo - AroFlo Field: app and browser

Field access supports time capture and job workflows; app documentation describes signatures, photos, barcode scanning and location use.

Demo check: Check field permissions and offline scope. Demonstrate material/labour attribution to a longer project.

Mobile evidence: https://aroflo.com/blog/aroflo-app-release-announcement

Buildxact - Buildxact Onsite: iOS / Android

Schedule-task visibility, leads, shared files and site-diary photos or notes.

Demo check: Confirm current plan and role access; do not assume all estimating or financial functions are mobile.

Mobile evidence: https://help.buildxact.com/en/articles/8388056-what-is-buildxact-onsite

NextMinute - NextMinute: iOS / Android

Job and task timesheets, quotes and job management. The mobile page also describes logging equipment hours at configured rates.

Demo check: Test current app version, access to costs and the approval/accounting handover.

Mobile evidence: https://support.nextminute.com/knowledgebase/how-do-i-download-the-nextminute-mobile-app

Test time attribution, purchasing, corrections and reconnection on the actual device. Confirm mobile licences and module costs. Full sources are in the register.

MOBILE COMPARISON / 4 OF 5

What can the crew do on a phone?

Vendor-published workflows; confirm edition, device and permissions. Contractable describes its own product. Unverified does not mean unavailable.

Payapps - Browser-based; works across devices

Progress-claim administration through a browser, rather than a general field-labour or purchasing app.

Demo check: Run the claim workflow on your phone; determine where labour, orders and the overall budget will live.

Mobile evidence: https://support.payapps.com/en/articles/10497750-what-is-payapps

Neo Intelligence (NeoConstruct.ai) - Field App

Shift details, schedule updates, timesheets, site diaries and project-linked forms.

Demo check: Trace approved hours into payroll and job costing; confirm the wider estimating and purchasing setup.

Mobile evidence: https://www.neoconstruct.ai/solutions/personas/field-crews

Varicon - Varicon mobile app

Cost capture, timesheets, dockets, dayworks, site diaries and forms; offline form capture is described.

Demo check: Demonstrate labour and plant capture, reconnection and the effect on forecast cost.

Mobile evidence: https://varicon.com.au/

Styck - Mobile scope not established

The reviewed official material describes construction financial management but does not establish a dedicated mobile feature set.

Demo check: Request a phone demonstration of time, purchasing and approvals. Unverified is not the same as unavailable.

Mobile evidence: https://styck.com.au/

Test time attribution, purchasing, corrections and reconnection on the actual device. Confirm mobile licences and module costs. Full sources are in the register.

MOBILE COMPARISON / 5 OF 5

What can the crew do on a phone?

Vendor-published workflows; confirm edition, device and permissions. Contractable describes its own product. Unverified does not mean unavailable.

Loop Logics - Field app and mobile access

View scheduled jobs; capture site photos, forms, time and job-status updates; communicate with the office.

Demo check: Confirm supported devices, offline behaviour and the connection to financial records.

Mobile evidence: https://looplogics.com/features/field-operations/

JACK App - JACK mobile app

Timesheets, tasks, schedules and job information for staff and subcontractors; safety setup is managed in the web app.

Demo check: Demonstrate the AU/NZ app. Confirm which purchasing and financial actions remain in the web app.

Mobile evidence: https://help.jackapp.io/en/collections/16614636-mobile-app

BuildPass - Worker and admin apps; browser access

Worker sign-on, inductions and access to SWMS and site documents; a separate Admin app is described for administrators.

Demo check: Confirm AU workflows, user types and mobile finance availability; a worker-app listing does not prove desktop finance parity.

Mobile evidence: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=au.com.buildpass.app

ProcurePro - Mobile scope not established

Reviewed official material describes subcontract procurement, tender comparison, approvals and contract execution; mobile-specific scope needs confirmation.

Demo check: Demonstrate approval and tender-review tasks on the intended device. Do not confuse ProcurePro with unrelated Procure apps.

Mobile evidence: https://procurepro.co/faq

Cheops - Cheops Mobile / responsive modules

Time Portal, mobile POs, site diaries, defects, inductions and smart forms. Mobile POs are described as creating budget commitments.

Demo check: Scope licensed modules, mobile approvals and device/offline support; test connection to Cheops financials.

Mobile evidence: https://cssp.biz/products/mobile-modules/

Test time attribution, purchasing, corrections and reconnection on the actual device. Confirm mobile licences and module costs. Full sources are in the register.

02 / DEMONSTRATE THE WORKFLOW

Seven things every vendor should show you.

Use the same representative project in every demo. A feature name earns a question; a working example earns confidence.

01 Estimate → working budget

Ask to revise a labour rate, add an option and preserve the accepted version. Show which costs and selling values move into the job. Demonstrate separate work and payment breakups, section versus task attribution, and what happens to existing records when tracking changes.

02 Purchasing → commitments

Raise a PO or WO against a budget task. Receive part of it, invoice part of it and show the uninvoiced balance without counting the same cost twice.

03 Labour and plant → resource cost

Approve labour hours and demonstrate plant resource costing against its allowance. Explain rates, allocation corrections and hired-plant invoices without double counting. Distinguish costing from payroll processing.

04 Remaining work → final forecast

Show actual cost, the unrecognised part of commitments and remaining uncommitted work separately. Explain assumptions and forecast changes.

05 Changed scope → controlled variation

Price a variation, record its status and show what happens to the budget, order and claim. Do not silently count an unapproved variation as contracted revenue.

06 Progress claim → retention and cash

Run a claim with a variation and retention. Explain each balance. The amount claimed is not a reliable substitute for physical progress or earned value.

07 Project records → financial ledger

Show what transfers, when it transfers and who fixes exceptions. Confirm tax, account and supplier mappings and whether the integration is one-way or two-way for each record type.

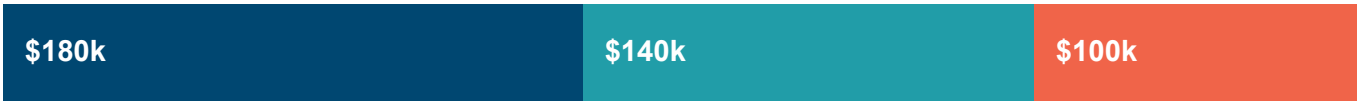
03 / WORKED PROJECT EXAMPLE

Under budget so far. Over budget by the finish.

Illustrative project. All amounts exclude GST. This describes a method. Ask every vendor, including us, to show how their forecast is built.

The original promise

Revenue $500,000 · Cost budget $400,000 · Planned profit $100,000 · Margin 20%



- Actual cost: $180,000
- Open commitments: $140,000
- Remaining uncommitted: $100,000

FORECAST FINAL COST	FORECAST MARGIN
$420,000	16%

Forecast profit is $80,000. The cost forecast has increased by $20,000 and margin has fallen by four percentage points—even though actual spending is still below the original allowance.

Do not count a purchase twice

If a $30,000 invoice becomes actual cost, remove that same $30,000 from the unrecognised commitment. Actuals become $210,000 and open commitments $110,000. The forecast stays $420,000.

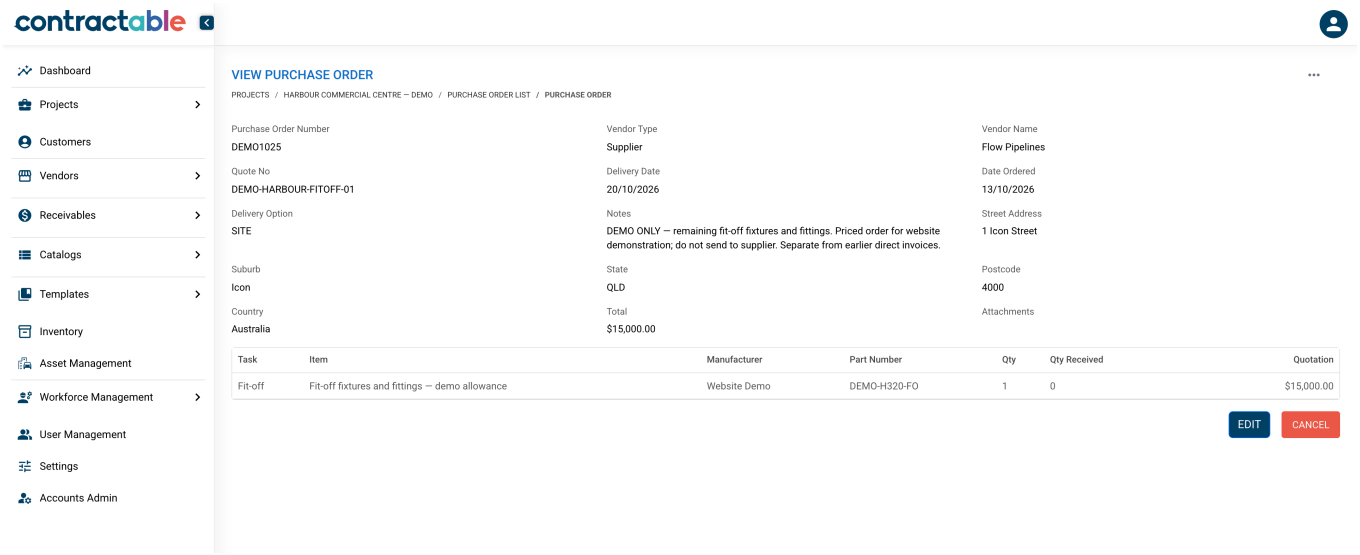
Next decision: review the quantities, rates and labour hours still to come. Keep proposed variations separate from approved contract revenue. Claimed percentage is not a substitute for physical progress.

04 / PURCHASING AND FINANCE

An order should carry the job's context to finance.

Test the handovers: supplier quote, order, partial delivery, invoice attribution and ledger reconciliation.

01	**Request**	Define the scope, quantities, delivery and budget task before seeking a price.
02	**Commit**	Issue the approved PO or WO and expose the commitment against the job.
03	**Receive**	Record what arrived or was completed, including partial deliveries and exceptions.
04	**Attribute**	Allocate the invoice to the correct job and task; review discrepancies and remaining commitments.
05	**Reconcile**	Transfer agreed records to finance and reconcile exceptions, balances and timing.



Illustrative project. Demonstration data. Original aspect ratio preserved. Open the HTML edition for full-size inspection.

Your documents. Your brand.

Contractable can configure PO and WO documents to suit your brand. Validate merged item descriptions, quantities, rates and totals against the accepted scope.

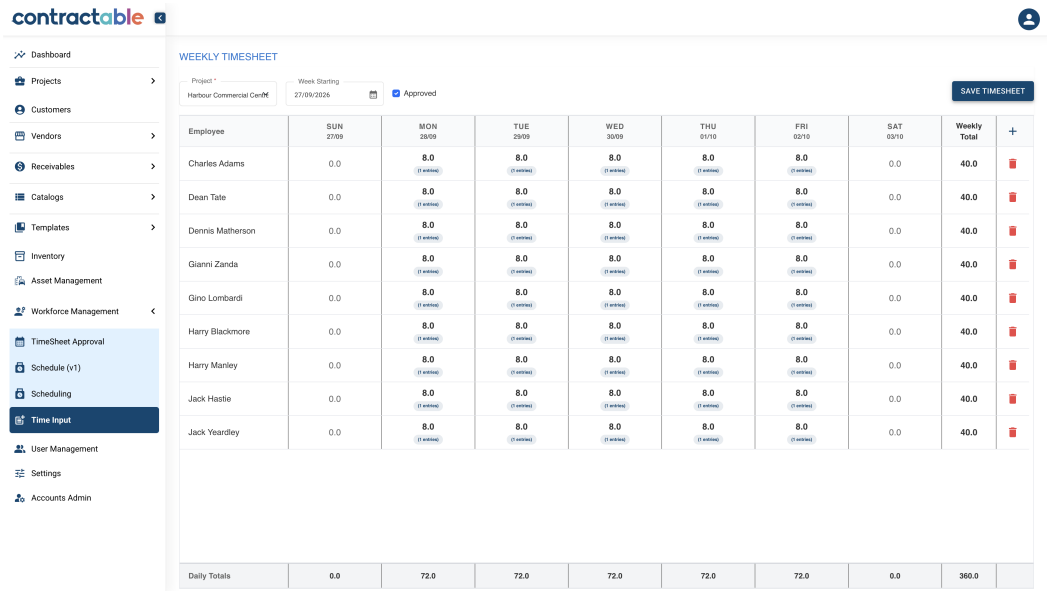
The five steps above are a buyer's checklist. Demonstrate the available automation, approval behaviour and exception handling in the chosen configuration.

05 / PRODUCT EVIDENCE

Bring site effort and claims into view.

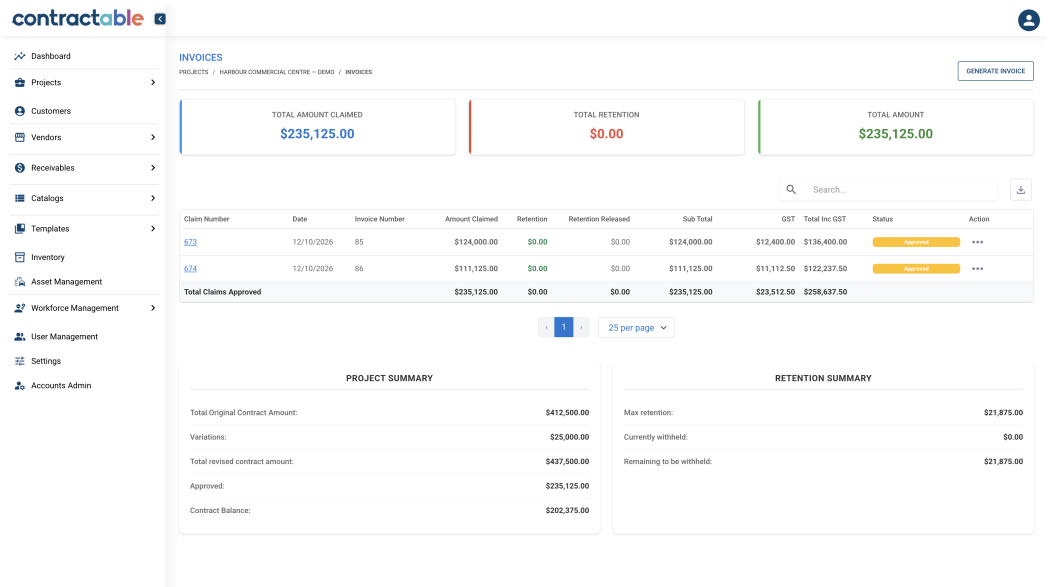
Illustrative project. Demonstration data. Interface evidence, not an independently measured customer result.

Labour needs a task and a cost.



Ask how hours are approved, allocated and costed—and how the effort still to come enters the forecast.

Claims need a clear trail.



Keep claims, certification, retention and cash collection distinct. Open the full-size source images through the HTML edition to inspect fine interface detail.

06 / CONTRACTABLE IN CONTEXT

From the priced quote to the commercial position.

Commercial subcontractors in electrical, plumbing and hydraulic, mechanical and HVAC, and civil, and growing builders.

Estimate with structure

Estimate with Item and Task Templates, options, revisions, Cost/Sales Levels and Profit Rounding. Include materials, subcontractors, labour and plant. Bluebeam and Groundplan integrations for measurements and quantities are coming soon; native live takeoff is not currently included.

Keep the budget connected

Labour and specialist plant use the Resource costing and tracking model. Trace the estimate into purchasing, resource costs, variations and claims. Configure documents to your brand. Onboarding maps your workflow, migrates agreed data and trains the team.

Define the accounting handover

Confirm which records transfer to Xero, MYOB or QuickBooks, when they transfer and how exceptions are handled. Accounts-payable integration is an add-on and requires Purchasing. Agree the direction and data scope for each record type.

Vendor invoice (bill) capture: rollout status

Vendor invoice (bill) capture automation is rolling out to accounts as they onboard. It captures supplier bills, extracts their details and maps the data for review. Ask to see the workflow in your consultation. Confirm activation and the agreed review process during onboarding.

The practical test

Trace a priced quote into the budget, purchasing, approved labour and a claim. Confirm forecast and accounting scope. Enquire about takeoff integration availability and having your preferred platform included.

07 / COMPARE THE SHORTLIST · 1 OF 7

Project cost control alongside the job.

Consider the fit, then require evidence for the workflow that matters to your business.

Planyard

Project cost control · Contractors seeking project cost control alongside their accounting system.

Planyard describes estimating, budget tracking, purchase orders, subcontract management, invoices, change orders and forecasting. Its published workflow also includes timesheets and progress billing. It is a relevant comparison where the job budget needs to stay connected to purchasing and finance. Its own customer-fit page identifies labour-only subcontractors as outside its ideal audience unless their needs align with its offering.

Demo test: Use your own claim, retention and subcontract scenarios. Confirm how labour costs, remaining work and accounting transactions reach the forecast in the package offered.

[2] Official source / evidence basis in source register

LiveCosts

Project cost control · Builders and trade contractors wanting clearer purchasing and job-cost visibility.

LiveCosts presents job costing, purchase orders, invoice processing, time tracking, budget reporting and accounting integrations. Headquartered in Dublin, Ireland, it is sold in Australia through licensed reseller Buildsoft. Buildsoft describes a custom Cubit Estimating integration and Australian-based front-line technical support, making the estimate-to-budget handover relevant for existing Cubit users.

Demo test: Show a Cubit estimate becoming a LiveCosts job budget, including cost-code mapping and later revisions. Confirm connector licensing, implementation and support responsibilities. Then demonstrate remaining cost, variations, progress claims and retention in the proposed package.

[3] Official source / evidence basis in source register

Buildlogic

Project cost control · Builders, developers and subcontractors assessing an integrated project and financial workflow.

Buildlogic's Xero marketplace description covers estimating templates, job costing, claims, variations and subcontractor payments. It also describes approved timesheets allocated to projects, with hours transferred to Xero.

Demo test: Confirm the current edition, mobile workflow, cost-to-complete method and the exact Xero setup. Establish who resolves rejected or changed transactions after synchronisation.

[4] Official source / evidence basis in source register

07 / COMPARE THE SHORTLIST · 2 OF 7

Civil and construction financial control.

Consider the fit, then require evidence for the workflow that matters to your business.

Varicon

Project cost control · Civil contractors managing site costs, production and remaining work.

Varicon describes civil project cost control, with costs recorded for labour hours, plant usage, materials and variations. Its forecasting page covers remaining quantities and rates, production progress and forecast adjustments. Assess how field records and commercial decisions feed the cost position.

Demo test: Reforecast a task using remaining quantities and rates. Reconcile plant and labour costs, partial invoices and open commitments without overlap.

[15] Official source / evidence basis in source register

Styck

Project cost control · Australian builders and contractors focusing on construction financial administration.

Styck describes budgets, committed and actual costs, forecasting, purchase orders and subcontract agreements. Its published scope includes variations, progress claims, retention and work-in-progress reporting, with connections to existing accounting systems.

Demo test: Follow an estimate into the job, then change a subcontract commitment and prepare a claim. Explain labour attribution, retention and the assumptions behind the forecast.

[16] Official source / evidence basis in source register

07 / COMPARE THE SHORTLIST · 3 OF 7

Broader systems: project operations.

Consider the fit, then require evidence for the workflow that matters to your business.

Archdesk

Broader construction systems · Contractors wanting configurable construction operations across departments.

Archdesk describes a construction ERP connecting estimating, procurement, project delivery and finance. Its published scope includes job costing, labour costs, payment applications and cost-to-complete reporting. It serves specialist contractors as well as general contractors.

Demo test: Map your Australian claim and accounting requirements. Test configuration effort, report ownership and the work needed to maintain workflows after implementation.

[5] Official source / evidence basis in source register

Procore

Broader construction systems · Head contractors, specialist contractors and owners needing broader project collaboration.

Procore's Australian cost-management material describes connected project financials, budgets, change management and progress claims. Consider the wider platform and the roles that need to collaborate, rather than comparing only a purchase-order screen.

Demo test: Request a scoped proposal showing included financial tools, integrations and implementation. Demonstrate your subcontract and accounting handover in the proposed configuration.

[6] Official source / evidence basis in source register

Jobpac Connect

Broader construction systems · Construction businesses assessing combined operational and financial control.

Trimble describes project and contract management, financial processes and forecasting in Jobpac Connect. Its documentation explicitly discusses contract valuation, margin variances and reconciliation with the ledger. It includes a general ledger: assess the implications of adopting that ledger rather than assuming a simple connector to your existing accounts.

Demo test: Reconcile a live-project forecast to the ledger and portfolio reporting. Confirm the implementation, payroll and accounting scope your business would actually adopt.

[7] Official source / evidence basis in source register

07 / COMPARE THE SHORTLIST · 4 OF 7

Construction finance and operations.

Consider the fit, then require evidence for the workflow that matters to your business.

Premier

Broader construction systems · Contractors considering construction accounting together with job-cost control.

Premier's Australian job-costing page describes estimate-at-completion, actual and committed costs, purchase orders, subcontracts, variations and a payment-application portal. It also describes entering anticipated costs into forecasts.

Demo test: Test the assumptions behind automated forecasts, the Australian accounting configuration and the treatment of claims and retention. Compare the work of adopting its finance model with keeping your existing ledger.

[8] Official source / evidence basis in source register

BuildPass

Broader construction systems · Builders combining site operations with estimating and project financial control.

BuildPass extends beyond site safety. Its finance offering describes job budgets, purchase orders, bills, subcontract administration, variations, progress claims, retention, WIP and cash forecasting. Its plans combine construction operations with additional preconstruction and finance capabilities.

Demo test: Specify the proposed package and demonstrate the estimate-to-budget handover, invoice review and forecast changes. Confirm which finance functions and accounting connections are included.

[19] Official source / evidence basis in source register

Cheops

Broader construction systems · Commercial and civil contractors evaluating construction operations with an integrated financial ledger.

CSSP describes Cheops as a construction system spanning job costs, commitments, purchasing, receipts, invoices, subcontract administration and forecasting. Core financial modules include a general ledger, accounts payable and receivable, with multi-company and project reporting.

Demo test: Reconcile the job forecast to the ledger. Scope the modules, opening balances, migration, payroll requirements and implementation responsibilities before comparing costs.

[21] Official source / evidence basis in source register

07 / COMPARE THE SHORTLIST · 5 OF 7

Trade and builder workflows.

Consider the fit, then require evidence for the workflow that matters to your business.

Simpro

Trade and builder workflows · Trade contractors, including commercial HVAC, balancing projects and service work.

Simpro's project-management page describes estimated versus actual cost by phase, variations, progress claims and retention claims. Its commercial HVAC guidance discusses purchase and subcontract commitments and WIP reporting. This makes project-based commercial HVAC a relevant evaluation, alongside service work.

Demo test: Show how remaining cost is reforecast on a commercial project and which reports and modules are included in the Australian package. Guidance about forecasting is not proof that every forecast step is automated.

[9] Official source / evidence basis in source register

AroFlo

Trade and builder workflows · Trade businesses needing job management and cost-centre visibility.

AroFlo describes allocating costs and invoicing through cost centres, including labour and external contractor costs. Its trade-workflow orientation makes it a relevant shortlist candidate where office and field processes need to stay connected.

Demo test: Run a longer project with multiple cost centres, open orders and outstanding claims. Ask for the remaining-cost forecast and accounting handover, not just historical job profitability.

[10] Official source / evidence basis in source register

Buildxact

Trade and builder workflows · Residential builders and renovators wanting takeoff, estimating and financial tools.

Buildxact's Australian material connects takeoff, estimating and quoting with financial tracking. It describes integrations with Xero, MYOB and QuickBooks. It is a useful comparison when preparing the estimate is a major part of the operational problem. Its Australian accounting page places accounting integrations in Pro and above; confirm the current plan and connector scope in your quote.

Demo test: Use a real scope change after the job starts. Test how purchasing, labour, variations and the forecast evolve beyond the original quote, and which functions require particular plans.

[11] Official source / evidence basis in source register

07 / COMPARE THE SHORTLIST · 6 OF 7

Builder and delivery workflows.

Consider the fit, then require evidence for the workflow that matters to your business.

NextMinute

Trade and builder workflows · Builders and trades wanting job-level and stage-level cost feedback.

NextMinute describes back-costing against estimates, with crew time and costs helping users understand job performance. It is worth assessing where day-to-day job administration and visibility of actual effort are central requirements. Its help centre documents manual retention deductions and release, rather than a dedicated automated retention feature.

Demo test: Distinguish actual-versus-estimate reporting from forecasting the cost of unfinished work. Demonstrate your quoting or takeoff handover and the financial integration rather than assuming native takeoff.

[12] Official source / evidence basis in source register

Loop Logics

Trade and builder workflows · Insurance and restoration builders, trades and commercial builders evaluating connected delivery workflows.

Loop Logics connects quoting, project delivery, field operations and financial reporting. Its financial page describes job budgets, cost forecasting and margin visibility. Its commercial-builder page names Xero, MYOB and NetSuite integrations. Its stated audience includes commercial builders as well as insurance and restoration businesses.

Demo test: Use your commercial project structure and claim cycle, including changes after award. Confirm the finance handover and what is configured for your type of work.

[17] Official source / evidence basis in source register

JACK App

Trade and builder workflows · Builders wanting estimating, takeoff, job management and cash-flow visibility.

JACK brings estimating and takeoff together with job management, cash-flow forecasting, timesheets and safety. Its Xero marketplace listing describes invoice and bill flows, payment status and approved hours transferred to payroll.

Demo test: Demonstrate your purchasing, variation and progress-claim process on a representative project. Confirm which office and mobile user types need access and how job costs reconcile.

[18] Official source / evidence basis in source register

07 / COMPARE THE SHORTLIST · 7 OF 7

Specialists within a wider system.

Consider the fit, then require evidence for the workflow that matters to your business.

Payapps

Claims specialist · Businesses whose immediate problem is administering progress claims and retention.

Payapps focuses on progress claims, variations, retention and related compliance, with integrations into other business systems. It belongs on a shortlist for a claims problem, while a broader job-cost platform may still be needed.

Demo test: Identify where the estimate, orders, labour and final-cost forecast will live. Confirm how accepted claims and retention flow between Payapps and those systems.

[13] Official source / evidence basis in source register

Neo Intelligence (NeoConstruct.ai)

Workforce operations · Labour-intensive subcontractors coordinating crews, site records and payroll.

Neo describes crew scheduling, equipment management, digital timesheets and site records. Its payroll workflow connects approved hours and job allocations to existing payroll and ERP systems. Evaluate it where workforce operations are the immediate priority.

Demo test: Trace approved labour from the site record into payroll and job costing. Establish where estimating, purchasing and claims will live in your combined setup.

[14] Official source / evidence basis in source register

ProcurePro

Procurement specialist · Main contractors controlling subcontract procurement and award decisions.

ProcurePro focuses on procurement schedules, scopes, tenders, price comparisons, recommendations, approvals and contract execution. It is relevant where managing subcontract packages is the central problem, including as part of a wider project and financial software setup.

Demo test: Follow an awarded package into the commitment and job-cost records. Confirm the integration with your project and accounting systems, including responsibility for later changes.

[20] Official source / evidence basis in source register

08 / IMPLEMENTATION AND COST

A login does not establish cost control.

Buy the operating process as carefully as you buy the feature list.

01 · Map the operation

Agree how you estimate, structure cost centres, authorise purchasing, approve labour and run the claim cycle. Give each exception an owner.

02 · Bring the real data

Prepare templates, supplier records, cost codes and opening job balances. Reconcile the imported position before relying on a dashboard.

03 · Prove one complete job cycle

Use the office and site team to test a quote, order, timesheet and claim. Include a correction and a partial delivery, not only the clean path.

04 · Make control repeatable

Agree a weekly review of missing costs, open commitments, unapproved variations and remaining work. Train owners and record how exceptions are resolved.

Compare the whole three-year cost

Setup + migration + training + 36 months of recurring fees + internal administration + required connectors and add-ons. Include your team's time. Compare the same users, jobs, entities and functional scope.

Why there is no subscription-price league table

Editions, currencies and implementation scope differ. Request written, current proposals for the same requirements. A low headline price can omit the work needed to make the system useful.

Contractable's approach is to map the workflow, migrate the agreed data and train the team. Agree scope and acceptance checks in consultation; no fixed implementation timetable is promised by this guide.

09 / DEMO SCORECARD

Make the shortlist earn its place.

Suggested weights only. Set them before the demos. Keep evidence beside each score and treat an unanswered requirement as unknown.

Decision area	Weight	Score / 5	Evidence
Working estimate and budget	15%	_____	_____
Purchasing and commitments	15%	_____	_____
Labour and plant costing	15%	_____	_____
Remaining-cost forecast	20%	_____	_____
Variations, claims and retention	15%	_____	_____
Accounting reconciliation	10%	_____	_____
Implementation and adoption	10%	_____	_____

0 = not demonstrated · 3 = acceptable workaround · 5 = demonstrated end to end

Weighted result = sum of (score ÷ 5 × weight). A mandatory requirement can still rule out a product regardless of the total. Ask for the configuration, owner and recurring effort behind each workaround.

Before signing

Confirm included modules, user types, connectors, implementation responsibilities, data migration, training, support and data export. Record what is live, what needs configuration and what is being rolled out.

Bring one quote. Follow the money through the job.

Book a construction workflow demo →

10 / BUYER QUESTIONS

Separate the figures that look alike.

A clear definition is more useful than another dashboard tile.

Is a budget-versus-actual report enough?

It tells you what has been spent against an allowance. It does not, by itself, tell you what the unfinished work will cost. A useful final-cost forecast also accounts for outstanding commitments and remaining work without overlap.

Are markup and margin the same?

No. A job with revenue of $500,000 and cost of $400,000 has $100,000 profit: 20% margin on revenue, but 25% markup on cost. Ask which denominator every percentage uses.

Does a progress claim show the work earned?

Not necessarily. Billing timing, certification, variations and retention can move independently of physical progress. Earned-value reporting needs a defensible measure of completed work and its budgeted cost, not just the percentage invoiced.

Should construction software replace Xero, MYOB or QuickBooks?

Not automatically. Compare keeping your financial ledger with adopting a construction accounting or ERP system. In either model, make the project-to-ledger reconciliation explicit. An integration logo alone does not prove what data transfers.

Does Contractable include estimating and live takeoff?

Contractable includes estimating with prebuilt templates, options, revision history, Cost/Sales Levels and profit rounding. Integrated takeoff options with Bluebeam and Groundplan are coming soon, to bring measurements and quantities into your estimating workflow. Enquire about availability and having your preferred takeoff platform included. Native live takeoff is not currently included.

Which platform is best?

There is no independently tested overall winner in this guide. Select for your project model, accounting requirements and adoption capacity. Run the same seven demonstrations before deciding.

METHOD / SOURCES / CORRECTIONS

A comparison that can be checked.

Published by Contractable, one of the vendors included. This is a sourced buying guide, not an independent ranking or hands-on certification of every product. Features, editions and integration scope should be confirmed with each vendor.

Sources reviewed 26 October 2026. Changed scope claims were rechecked for this revision; the expanded source list also preserves Claude's dated research. Vendor statements are not independent implementation tests. Next editorial review: January 2027.

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METHOD / CONTINUED

Scope and corrections.

Contractable is first because it publishes this guide. Groupings are not rankings. No affiliate payments or paid placements determine order. Trademarks belong to their owners; inclusion does not imply endorsement. Corrections: hello@contractable.co.