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The existence and nature of "contract law" in Australia cannot be wholly disassociated from the court systems that have administered it. There may yet be life in "causes of action" derived from English law that have been displaced, at least in the popular imagination, by the concept of "contract". The history of "contract law" in New South Wales may offer practical insights into broader questions about Australian law. This article focuses light on: first, the development of contract law in Australia; secondly, the common law system of "issue pleading" retained in New South Wales after England and other Australian jurisdictions had embraced equity's "fact pleading" system in

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