



Kirstie Richards

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Kirstie Richards is an environmental and planning lawyer who focuses on large scale projects in the energy, renewables, oil and gas, mining and infrastructure sectors. She has more than 15 years' experience advising on planning, environmental and regulatory approvals, pollution and contamination, environmental legal risk management and allocation, crisis management (including regulatory investigations, enforcement and prosecutions) and land access (including compensation, mining and petroleum access and neighbour agreements) and environmental and planning litigation.

Kirstie guides her clients through the complex process of environmental projects and as a result has developed strong and trusted relationships with her core clients. She works seamlessly between both in-house legal and the business teams to help them reach their objectives. Kirstie's clients include public and private energy and gas generator and retailers, renewable companies and government agencies.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining K&L Gates, Kirstie was a Special Counsel in the Sydney based environment, planning and communities team of a top tier law firm.

Kirstie was also Tipstaff to Justice Pain of the NSW Land and Environment Court in 2004.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific*, Next Generation Partner in Environment and Planning (2021)

EDUCATION

- B.Sc., University of Wollongong, 2001 (*Distinction*)
- LL.B., University of Wollongong, 2001 (*First Class Honours*)

ADMISSIONS

- Supreme Court of New South Wales

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 15 February 2021, NSW Build-to-Rent – Treasurer's Guidelines and Planning Law Details Released (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 16 December 2020, Water Resource Considerations for the Hydrogen Economy (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 26 November 2020, Avoiding Bill Shock: What You Need To Know About The Electricity Infrastructure Investment Bill 2020 (NSW) (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 25 June 2020, NSW Building Industry Reforms (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 1 June 2020, Australian Government Seeks Feedback on Energy Emissions Technology Investment Roadmap Discussion Paper (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 6 April 2020, COVID-19: (Australia) Sweeping NSW Planning Powers Introduced in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 13 February 2019, Land and Environment Court of NSW – "Wrong Time" for Coal Mine Greenhouse Gas Emissions (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 18 January 2019, Cleared to Land: Aviation Newsletter
- 26 September 2018, New Planning Framework for the Western Sydney Aerotropolis (*Alerts/Updates*)

NEWS & EVENTS

- 31 May 2019, K&L Gates Advises RATCH-Australia on 226MW Collector Wind Farm (*Press Release*)
- 21 February 2019, K&L Gates Names 24 New Partners Across Four Continents (*Press Release*)

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Real Estate
- Environment, Land, and Natural Resources
- Oil and Gas
- Power

INDUSTRIES

- Energy

EMERGING ISSUES

- Hydrogen

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Advising a confidential bidder on the contamination, environmental and planning issues associated with its proposed acquisition of Shell's Australian marketing and distribution assets.
- Advised various clients on environmental and planning issues associated with a number of NSW mines and development projects including the Metropolitan Colliery, the Boggabri Mine, the Springvale Mine and the Mt Pleasant Mine.
- Various clients on the planning and environmental issues, including planning pathways and compliance issues and neighbor agreements, associated with the Bango Wind Farm, the Boco Rock Wind Farm, the Bodangora Wind Farm, the Bulgana Wind Farm, the Capital Wind Farm, the Conroy's Gap Wind Farm, the Cullerin Range Wind Farm, the Crudine Ridge Wind Farm, the Flyers Creek Wind Farm, the Glen Innes Wind Farm, the Gunning Wind Farm, the Jupiter Wind Farm, the Liverpool Range Wind Farm, the Mt Hope Wind Farm, the Rye Park Wind Farm, the Sapphire Wind Farm, the Taralga Wind Farm and the Ungula Wind Farm.
- Advised NSW Government Transport for NSW on the planning aspects of the South West Rail Link and the Commuter Car Park Program.
- Advised NSW Government on Health Infrastructure on the planning issues associated with the redevelopment of the Royal North Shore Hospital.
- Advised Department of Finance and Services on the planning and heritage aspects of the redevelopment and long term lease of sandstone Department of Education and Department of Lands buildings in Sydney.
- Advised NSW Government on Art Gallery of New South Wales on the planning issues associated with the Sydney Modern Project.
- Advised NSW Government on the planning and approval issues associated with Snowy 2.0 and the proposed divestment of NSW's interest in the Snowy Hydro Corporation.
- Advised Kepco Bylong Australia on certain planning and mining issues associated with the Bylong Coal Project, including successfully negotiating one of the first enforceable undertakings under the *Mining Act 1992* (NSW).
- Advised Jemena on successful claims for compensation for mine subsidence issues affecting the Eastern Gas Pipeline.
- Advised Consortiums on the planning, environmental and contamination related aspects of their bids to acquire Transgrid and Endeavour Energy from the State of NSW.
- Advised a consortium on the planning, environmental and contamination related aspects of their bid to acquire the Port of Newcastle from the State of NSW.

- Advised on NSW Ports on the planning, environmental and contamination related aspects of its acquisition of Port Botany and Port Kembla from the State of NSW.
- Advised Yancoal on the environmental and planning aspects of its acquisition of Coal and Allied which holds a majority interest in the Mount Thorley and Warkworth Mines and the Hunter Valley Operations Mine as well as a stake in the Port Waratah coal loading facility at Newcastle and various development projects.
- Advised Union Fenosa Wind Australia on the NSW and Commonwealth planning and approval issues associated the Crookwell 2 Wind Farm, the Crookwell 3 Wind Farm and the Paling Yards Wind Farm.
- Advised Goldwind Australia on the NSW and Commonwealth planning and approval issues associated with the Gullen Range Wind Farm, the White Rock Wind Farm, the Coppabella Wind Farm, the Gullen Range Solar Farm and the White Rock Solar Farm (including successfully appealing the validity of a refusal of a modification to the Gullen Range Wind Farm planning approval).
- Advised Caltex on contaminated sites regulation and remediation in relation to its national network of sites, the divestment of surplus sites and pollution incident response, including regulatory investigations and prosecutions.
- Advised Orica on the remediation, regulation and divestment of a number of contaminated sites in Botany, NSW including negotiating environmental liability allocations and environmental deeds.
- Advised Lendlease on certain planning issues associated with its Barangaroo development and the planning and contamination issues associated with its bid to acquire the former White Bay Power Station site.
- Advised Green Distillation Technologies on the planning approvals and environment licence application for their pioneering project that converts tyres back into carbon, oil and steel, without producing emissions.
- Advised the Northern Beaches Council on the planning and environmental issues associated with the Kimbricki Resource Recovery Project and related projects.
- Advised BHPB on the environmental and planning issues associated with the Mt Arthur Coal Mine, including incident response and regulatory issues.
- Advised on the NSW and Commonwealth planning and approval issues associated with the Silverton Wind Farm and the Coopers Gap Wind Farm.
- Advised on the NSW and Commonwealth planning and approval, environmental, petroleum law, pipeline license and land access issues associated with the Newcastle Gas Storage Project, the Camden Gas Project, the Hunter Gas Project and the Gloucester Gas and Pipeline Project (including negotiating co-operation agreements with overlapping mining tenement holders and successfully defending judicial review proceedings challenging the validity of planning approvals for the Gloucester Gas and Pipeline Project).
- Advised on the planning, environmental and contamination issues associated with its acquisition and operation of the Bayswater and Liddell Power Stations.
- Advised Newtricity Developments Biala Pty Limited on the planning and environment issues associated with the Biala Wind Farm.

- Advised RATCH Australia on the planning and environment issues associated with the Collector Wind Farm.
- Advised on a range of regulatory and stakeholder management issues including incident response and enforcement action by environmental regulators.
- Advised EnergyAustralia on the planning and environmental issues associated with the Wallerawang and Mount Piper Power Stations, the Springvale Water Treatment Project and its proposed acquisition of a NSW power station and a SA pumped hydro electricity project.