

Overview

Decisions made by the Government and by regulators can have significant implications for business. Public sector agencies face unique challenges: they are expected to engage in commercial activities while fulfilling their public sector obligations.

If you are a private sector organisation working closely with the Government, or you work in a highly regulated industry, you need the advice of people who understand the complexities of public law and can help you engage with policy makers.

If you are a government or local government organisation with concerns about whether your decisions are legally robust, you need input from lawyers with the knowledge and experience to advise you.

We've worked on both sides of the fence, on some of New Zealand's largest public sector projects. We understand how government works and we deliver solutions tailored for the public sector context. Our team works daily with policy makers and politicians to help our clients respond to, and influence, government decisions and policy. We have broad expertise in all areas of central and local government law and we are accessible, practical, and easy to work with.

Representative Experience

Some of our experience includes advising:

- Serco Asia Pacific on all proceedings following the allegation of organised fighting at Mt. Eden Corrections Facility. This extremely high profile case held global reputational risk for Serco and wider implications for private sector businesses delivering public services in New Zealand.
- Forsyth Barr and Forsyth Barr Group Limited in relation to the Commerce Commission's investigation into the failure of the Credit SaLS investment product.
- Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) in the High Court where Waikanae Christian Holiday Park sought a judicial review against the HNZPT, which approved wahi tapu status for the land.
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment in its negotiations with SkyCity towards the construction of the New Zealand International Convention Centre.

Public and Administrative Law

Public law is the framework within which Government operates. Our team can help you navigate that framework to understand what is needed to achieve your objectives.

Information Law and Privacy

The more data the government and other organisations hold, the greater the risk of privacy breaches. Our team offers practical, legal advice on how to safely hold, collect, store and disclose information. We help clients prepare privacy policies and carry out privacy impact assessments, and we also help them respond to requests for information under the Privacy Act 1993 and the Official Information Act 1982.

Local Government Law

Local authorities are under increasing pressure to provide cost-effective services and infrastructure to their communities. Our team understands the challenges councils face. We advise on the full range of local government activities from helping to write and enforce bylaws to providing advice on commercial arrangements and assisting with environmental planning.

Crisis Management

Sometimes, no matter how careful you are, things go wrong. Our team has a unique combination of skills that means we can provide crisis management advice if you find yourself in a situation with both a legal and a public relations risk, such as a significant data breach.

Your Key Contacts

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