

# Matthew Ockleston

## Partner



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## Overview

Matthew is a partner and Business Unit Leader in our real estate team. He has over 20 years' experience, particularly with the *Public Works Act*, infrastructure projects and public law.

As a *Public Works Act* specialist, Matthew is uniquely positioned to advise government agencies on the property issues associated with large infrastructure projects, in particular the acquisition of land for new roads and the assessment of compensation. He has acted for the NZ Transport Agency on almost every major State Highway project in the North Island since 2004, including the Waterview Connection, Wellington Northern Corridor, Waikato Expressway and Auckland Northern Corridor Improvements, as well as the NZ\$3.4 billion Auckland City Rail Link.

He is a ranked lawyer for Real Estate in the Chambers and Partners Asia-Pacific Guide, a leading Individual for Real Estate & Construction in *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific* and highly recommended for Transport Projects as well. Clients note his expertise and describe him as 'highly experienced and respected' for Public Works Act matters. Matthew won the Most Client Focused Lawyer award at the *2018 Australian Financial Review Client Choice Awards*, recognising his commitment to providing an unbeatable client experience. His Chambers review notes his 'excellent service that is very customer-focused, responsive, and high-quality advice'.

Matthew has the relatively rare distinction, for a lawyer, of having been elected a Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), a prestigious global organisation for professionals in the valuation, real estate, construction and infrastructure industries. This appointment recognises his speciality practice and reputation.

Matthew advises on a range of matters, from helping to negotiate and settle the acquisition of land for public works, to providing strategic advice on how to manage the acquisition process and deal with compensation and compulsory acquisition. At the other end of the spectrum, he also advises on property management and disposal issues, including the various government disposal processes and statutory obligations. He has a strong understanding of how the Resource Management Act and planning matters interact with property issues.

He also advises overseas clients on the acquisition of land in New Zealand and the processes under the *Overseas Investment Act* to obtain consent where necessary.

## Experience

- **NZ Transport Agency:** Advised on numerous property acquisition and disposal issues associated with roading projects such as the Wellington Northern Corridor, the Northern Corridor Improvements Project in Auckland and sections of the Waikato Expressway.
- **NZ Transport Agency:** Advised on managing their extensive property holdings, including advising on tenancy agreements and dealing with any issues that arise.
- **Auckland Transport:** Advised on property management and acquisition matters across its portfolio.
- **Confidential clients:** Advised vendors and purchasers on residential and commercial property transactions, including those requiring consent under the Overseas Investment Act.
- **Confidential clients:** Advised various government agencies on strategic property disposal and retention issues including leases, offer-back and statutory right of first refusal obligations.

## Recognition

- *IFLR 1000* 2018-2021: Recognised as Notable Practitioner
- *Chambers Asia Pacific* 2021: Ranked Lawyer (Real Estate)
- *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific* 2021: Awarded Recommended Lawyer (Projects and Resource Management (including Environment))
- *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific:* Awarded Leading Individual (Real Estate) 2019-2021 and Recommended (Transport and Major Projects) 2017-2021
- *Australian Financial Review* 2018 *Client Choice Awards:* Awarded Most Client Focused Lawyer

## Insights

- Co-author, "Reform of the overseas investment rules – second phase," *Kensington Swan Newsflash*, April 17, 2019

## Activities and Affiliations

### Memberships

- Member, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), 2020

### Prior and Present Employment

- Dentons Kensington Swan (Kensington Swan), 2011-Present
- Chapman Tripp, 2003-2011
- Clendon Feeney, 2000-2003

## Areas of focus

### Practices

- Overseas Investment

- Real Estate

## Industry sectors

- Asia Business
- Government

## Education

- University of Auckland, 2000, LLB (Hons), BCom

## Admissions and qualifications

- New Zealand, 2001