



Mike Holm

Professional Qualifications

LLB (Hons) Canterbury
MSc Resource Management (Distinction) Canterbury
LLM Environmental Law, George Washington University



Mike Holm is one of New Zealand's most experienced environmental and public law specialists. He is a founding partner of Atkins Holm Majurey. Prior to the establishment of the firm (2009) he was a partner in Russell McVeagh heading both the environmental and public law practices.

Central Government Environmental Agency Experience

From 1975-80 Mike was legal counsel for the Commission for the Environment, Wellington (a central government agency which was predecessor to the Ministry for the Environment). In this role he was an advisor to the Minister for the Environment and worked on major legislative and policy matters including reforms of land use planning, water and natural resources law. He was also involved in advising on the auditing of environmental impact reports on major development projects throughout New Zealand. He appeared in planning and water consent hearings representing the Commission. He also edited a Commission-published "*Guide to Environmental Law in New Zealand*", which was the first official collation of New Zealand's statutory environmental law framework.

While with the Commission, Mike was seconded to central government environmental agencies in the US and UK. He also worked with the OECD Environmental Directorate (Paris) on the first OECD review of New Zealand environmental administration and policies (1979).

Russell McVeagh – Environmental Law

Mike was the first specialist environmental law partner in the leading New Zealand commercial law firm Russell McVeagh based in Auckland (1982). He advised a range of clients seeking resource consents for contentious or complex natural resource and urban development projects throughout New Zealand including: mining; oil and gas exploration and development; power generation; water resources; coastal subdivision and port/waterfront developments; and a wide variety of urban planning and natural resource development issues.

During this time he led the successful consenting of the Synthetic Fuels Plant at Motonui, Taranaki and represented the Mobil/Crown joint venture in related Waitangi Tribunal proceedings; advised the Auckland Harbour Board on planning issues associated with redevelopment of Princes Wharf and the Viaduct Basin as well as other port related projects;



and was responsible for the preparation of the case on behalf of Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust establishing the first Water Conservation Order in New Zealand (Motu River).

Russell McVeagh – Public Law

In 1996 Mike established and headed Russell McVeagh's first specialist public law practice based in Wellington. He advised and represented a range of the firm's local and international corporate clients on influencing government decision making processes in relation to a wide variety of policy, regulatory and legislative issues. This included:

- IBM (negotiations with New Zealand Government to settle contractual issues related to the New Zealand Police Computer System – INCIS);
- the New Zealand Tourism Board (administrative and governance law issues);
- Westfield (planning issues in relation to major retail centre developments);
- Dow Chemicals (regulatory pollution liability issues);
- Daewoo (legislative amendments to motor vehicle licencing);
- TVNZ (administrative law and governance issues);
- NZ Dairy Group (Te Rapa dairy factory expansion); and
- Fonterra (public law and legislative issues associated with the successful establishment of Fonterra).

Legislative and Government Policy Reforms

Mike has undertaken a variety of specialist advisory roles to Government in relation to legislative reviews and policy reforms:

- (a) Chair of an expert group appointed (1997) by the Minister for the Environment (Hon Simon Upton) to review and recommend changes to the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (b) Member, Technical Advisory Group appointed by the Minister for the Environment (Hon N Smith) to review and recommend changes to the Resource Management Act 1991. This review influenced the Resource Management (Simplifying and Streamlining) Amendment Act 2009.
- (c) Joint author of a report (with the international environmental consultancy ERM) commissioned by the Ministry of Economic Development reviewing New Zealand's offshore health, safety and environmental legislative regime for offshore petroleum operations (2010).



- (d) Chair of the Local Government Efficiency Task Force, appointed by the Minister of Local Government, to review and recommend changes to the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act (2012).

Atkins Holm Majurey

Since the establishment of Atkins Holm Majurey (2009) Mike has advised and represented a wide range of local and international corporate clients on a variety of complex or contentious environmental matters and resource consents as well as a variety of public law issues involving local or central government:

- Cooper and Company – ongoing strategic advice and representation in relation to land use planning and resource consent issues for the Britomart Precinct redevelopment (Auckland CBD) including:
 - plan change approval for redevelopment of Seafarers Building;
 - heritage/planning hearings and negotiations related to the heritage CPO Building and City Rail Project; and
 - New Auckland Unitary Plan provisions for the precinct.
- National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research – advising NIWA in judicial review proceedings (High Court and Court of Appeal) in relation to an unsuccessful challenge to the accuracy of NIWA's New Zealand climate data; ongoing advice in relation to public and environmental law issues
- Government of Dubai – international and public law matters related to air freight charges and related Commerce Act regulatory issues
- Central Otago Environmental Society: representation in Environment and High Court hearings to successfully oppose Project Hayes windfarm (2008/9); and representation in Environment Court hearings (2013) successfully opposing hydro-dam development on the Nevis River
- Todd Energy – consenting of proposed new gas fired power station in Taranaki (Junction Road, New Plymouth); and ongoing advice in relation to resource consent application for proposed gas fired power station at Otorohanga, Central North Island
- New Zealand Windfarms (Palmerston North) – Environment Court and High Court proceedings related to windfarm regulatory noise compliance and resource consent issues
- Te Arai Coastal Lands Trust, Auckland – resource consents for Tara Iti international golf course development and associated residential subdivision at Te Arai
- Matakauri Lodge, Queenstown – resource consent for new Owners Cottage; ongoing planning/resource consent advice in relation to the QLDC Proposed District Plan



- Kauri Cliffs, Northland – ongoing advice in relation to planning and resource consent issues associated with future development proposals
- Taranaki Regional Council – advice on preparing submission to the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing (2013)
- Sanford / Sealord – advice on submissions to a Ministerial Inquiry into use of Foreign Charter Vessels in New Zealand Waters
- RCL – plan change approval for major new residential development – Hanley Downs, Queenstown (Plan Change 44)
- Eden Park Trust Board – ongoing representation and advice on Auckland Unitary Plan provisions for Eden Park, Auckland
- Commercial clients – advice and representation in relation to Queenstown town centre rezoning proposals and Commissioner hearings (Plan Change 50)
- Pounamu Holdings – resource consent for redevelopment project in Glenorchy township, Queenstown (Commissioner hearings and Environment Court); ongoing resource consent advice in relation to future phases of development
- Rocket Labs – advice on Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 marine consent regulatory issues associated with rocket launches from Mahia Peninsula
- Trans Tasman Resources (TTR) – Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 marine consent application for Taranaki offshore sand mining project (2016)