

LOUISE FORD

Qualifications and education

BSc / LLB (First Class Honours), University of Waikato

Key areas of experience

Resource management and environmental law
Public and local government law

Louise grew up on a sheep and beef farm in the Bay of Plenty and worked within the food and fibre sector throughout university. Louise has completed the Intermediate Sustainable Nutrient Management course at Massey University and is an active member of New Zealand Young Farmers at club, regional and a national level. Accordingly, Louise has a broad range of experience related to the food and fibre sector and rural industries. Since joining AHM in 2019 Louise has been involved in a range of issues across the spectrum of the firm's clients.



Louise regularly assists in the preparation of evidence and submissions for both Council and Court hearings, researching and drafting legal opinions and journal articles. Louise has appeared as a junior in the High Court, District Court, Environment Court and at the council hearings level, and has appeared as sole counsel before the Environment Court. Louise is a confident public speaker and regularly presents at training seminars and has presented at conferences.

Louise's experience includes a variety of work:

- Providing advice to Horticulture New Zealand on a range of issues concerning plan and policy issues around the country, including in relation to the Northland Regional Plan and various plan processes in Otago and Canterbury;
- For private developers seeking resource consents for their projects, including in relation to land use consents and discharge consents;
- Appearing as lead counsel in the Environment Court in relation to plan change processes;
- Appearing in Council level hearings, mediation and the Environment Court for both applicants and submitters on resource consents and plan matters;
- Appearing as junior counsel in the High Court for resource consent matters;
- Assisting a wide range of clients in developing submissions on resource consents, plan changes, policy documents and legislation;
- Assisting clients with a range of agricultural interests and queries;
- Assisting clients in relation to Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act claims;
- Advising local government on a range of process, procedure, liabilities, and substantive legal questions, including development contribution issues;
- Involvement with a range of iwi clients on issues ranging from consultation requirements, resource consent matters, Marine and Coastal Area Act applications and process, and general advice.