

Environmental and Planning Approvals

Much of our practice is directed at securing planning and environmental approvals for major projects across a wide range of industry sectors including resources, energy and infrastructure, projects, retail, commercial, residential and industrial property development.

Our work generally covers advising on development approval strategies; securing development approvals and construction certificates and defending and/or modifying developments already approved.

Another major area of our practice involves environmental approval processes securing project proponents 'environmental licence to operate', as well as dangerous goods licences and waste disposal licences.

RECENT WORK

Walker Corporation Rhodes Peninsula

Acted for Walker Corporation in its redevelopment of waterfront land at Rhodes, NSW. The development is an estimated A\$800 million project which involved a paint factory site being remediated and redeveloped to a mixed-use, high-rise, shopping centre, residential and commercial village.

Port of Melbourne Channel Deepening Project

Advised Port of Melbourne Channel Deepening, one of the largest infrastructure projects conducted by the Victorian Government in recent times, seen as critical to the Port and Australia's position in global shipping. As key advisers to the Port of Melbourne Corporation, we advised on many aspects of the project, including the Supplementary Environmental Effects Statement and managed the public hearing process Federal Court litigation over the Federal Government's environmental approval for the dredging, cultural and Aboriginal heritage issues, relocation of essential infrastructure under the Yarra River, the resolution of the alliance dredging contract, and land tenure issues relating to land assets affected by the project.

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Related Services

Related Industries

Environmental and Planning Approvals

Xstrata environment and planning advice

Advised Xstrata Coal Australia on the environment, planning and mining issues associated with all of its coal mining operations in NSW.

Westfield Group planning and development approvals

Advised Westfield Group on a wide range of planning matters in New South Wales (purchase and development of three major CBD retail sites in Sydney, including Centrepoin) and Queensland (development approvals for a new regional centre at Coomera and major expansion at North Lakes Centre, Chermside and Garden City regional shopping centres).

Brisbane Airport parallel runway

The cornerstone of the Brisbane Airport Corporation's infrastructure program for Australia's third-busiest airport is a new Parallel Runway, expected to be completed by 2020. The new runway will be 3.3km long, 60m wide and will have over 12km of taxiways, navigational aids and other airfield infrastructure. This is a multidisciplinary engineering project that requires a variety of technical and construction skills to complete. As the new runway will be built on what is currently swamp land, dredging and ground treatment work is required before construction of the runway can begin.

Minter Ellison is currently supporting BAC with the development and implementation of a procurement strategy for Stage 1 of the proposed A\$1.3 billion runway.

\$800m Discovery Point mixed use development

Acting for a wholly owned subsidiary of Australand Holdings Ltd on the A\$800 million Discovery Point development at Wollie Creek in New South Wales. This 8-hectare mixed use development will feature residential apartments, commercial offices, an integrated retail centre and extensive public and private parklands. We are advising on procurement and OH&S strategies, drafting pro-forma and project specific documentation (such as consultancy agreements and design and construct contracts), assisting in the preparation of the tender conditions, advising on the tendering process and compiling documentation for tender.

Lend Lease retail projects - QLD

Minter Ellison advised Lend Lease in obtaining approval for a major extension of the Sunshine Plaza regional shopping centre, valued at \$400 million. We are also advising Lend Lease on the integrity of the

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Cairns Planning Scheme in planning litigation challenging the role of the Cairns Central Shopping Centre.

Expansion of Kooragang and Carrington Coal Terminals

Acting for Port Waratah Coal Services Limited (a privately owned facility, the largest shareholder of which is Rio Tinto Coal Australia Limited) in the redevelopment and expansion of the Kooragang Coal Terminal and the Carrington Coal Terminal in the Port of Newcastle.

PUBLICATIONS

Minter Ellison Alert | New Queensland planning policy focuses on economic development

29 August 2012

On 24 August 2012, the Queensland State Government Temporary State Planning Policy 2/12 Planning for Prosperity (TSPP) took effect. The State government announced that the TSPP will mean that 'state agencies and council must ensure that economic development considerations are a fundamental planning consideration in this state. Its aim is to speed – not impede – development.'

This alert explains how the TSPP may affect your business or organisation.

Alert – Greentape reduction project: environmental approvals process reform

1 November 2011

Proposed amendments to the Environmental Protection Act 1994, as introduced by the *Environmental Protection (Greentape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011*, will affect all industries that trigger environmental approval thresholds. This Alert provides an overview of the proposed fundamental changes, outlining how industry may be impacted. We will release further specific Alerts to cover the effect on the resources sector and specific industry groups.

Alert – New planning provisions offer protection from urban encroachment for significant sites

17 October 2011

One of the more important amendments in Queensland's *Sustainable Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011* is the introduction of provisions that protect the existing uses of particular premises from new encroaching development. We look at

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how and when the protection provisions apply, exemptions, the registration process and the obligations of premises owners.

Alert – New biodiversity offset policy in Queensland

14 October 2011

The Queensland Biodiversity Offset Policy came into effect on 3 October 2011. The state wide Policy requires offsets for a broad range of activities - including level 1 mining, petroleum and gas activities, the construction of state-controlled roads and most environmentally relevant activities. This alert explains how the Policy will apply, the exemptions, and implications for future developments.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Chambers Asia Pacific / Chambers Global - Native Title

'I have been impressed by the excellent quality of advice, representation and service provided by Minter Ellison's experienced and knowledgeable practitioners.'

Best Lawyers 2014

The depth and strength of Minter Ellison's team in Australia has been recognised by this year's list of Best Lawyers, announced today by Best Lawyers®

Best Lawyers 2013

The depth and strength of Minter Ellison's team in Australia has been recognised by this year's list of Best Lawyers, announced today by Best Lawyers® and published by the Australian Financial Review.

Chambers Asia Pacific / Chambers Global - Environment and Planning

This practice is a long-standing adviser to Westfield Group, and lately acted for it with regard to complex planning and environmental approvals for shopping centre developments with a total value of AUD1.1 billion.