



Administrative and constitutional law

We provide specialist constitutional and administrative law advice.

Our lawyers regularly advise on constitutional and administrative matters and we have acted on some of New Zealand's most important cases. We utilise expertise across a range of fields to provide comprehensive solutions and practical advice.

Our knowledge and experience is wide-ranging, spanning the full spectrum of constitutional and administrative law.

Our experience includes:

- defending a judicial review on behalf of Powerco on a Commerce Commission recommendation that Powerco be placed under price control
- defending a judicial review brought by Air New Zealand against Nelson Airport
- representing DHBs in large-scale Health and Disability Commissioner and government investigations (Canterbury, Tairāwhiti, Southland, Auckland, Waikato)
- acting for parties including the University of Auckland and the Health and Disability Commissioner in numerous administrative law proceedings
- acting for the ACT Party in the first case brought to New Zealand's Supreme Court in *Prebble & Ors v Huata*
- advising Parliament by providing an independent legal opinion on the Auditor-General's inquiry into the legitimacy of pre-election spending by MPs
- advising the (then) Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission (now Te Ohu Kaimoana) on the policy framework for the distribution of fisheries and other assets under the Sealord deal and its subsequent consultation with iwi, and on the drafting of the Māori Fisheries Act 2004 - implementing the chosen distribution framework and regulating the ongoing management of Māori fisheries assets, and
- advising on Māori land law issues and negotiating the acquisition of property rights over Māori land.

We have advised Crown entity clients on:

- functions, powers, accountabilities, and collective and individual Board duties
- the interaction of the Crown Entities Act with the Crown entity's governing legislation
- the preparation of policies and procedures on conflicts of interest and on delegations in accordance with Part 2 of the Crown Entities Act
- the rules regarding the acquisition of securities, borrowing, guarantees, indemnities and derivative transactions, and issues related to the Crown Entities (Financial Powers) Regulations 2005
- planning and reporting requirements under Part 4 of the Crown Entities Act, and
- official information and privacy issues.



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