



## Mike Holm

### Professional Qualifications

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



### Background

Following completion of law and resource management degrees at the University of Canterbury (1975) Mike was appointed 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. He was also directly involved in the auditing of environmental impact reports which were required on major development projects throughout New Zealand and represented the Commission in planning and water consent hearings (1975-1980). He was the author of the first Guide to Environmental Law in New Zealand published by the Commission.

While with the Commission, Mike was seconded to the Federal US (Washington D.C.) and UK (London) government environmental agencies as well as the OECD Environmental Directorate (Paris). With the OECD he assisted in the first OECD review of New Zealand's environmental policies and laws (1979).

### Environmental Law Practice

In 1980 Mike joined Russell McVeagh's newly established environmental litigation practice. He was the first specialist environmental law partner in the firm and worked on securing approvals for a wide variety of major projects throughout New Zealand including: mining; petrochemical projects; oil and gas exploration and development; power generation; water resources; pulp and paper; urban and city planning; coastal subdivision and port/waterfront developments.

Clients included: NZ Synthetic Fuels Corporation (Bechtel and Mobil); Shell; Todd Corporation; Coal Corporation; Cypress Minerals; Auckland Harbour Board; Tasman Pulp and Paper; LD Nathan/Lion; and a variety of other local and international corporate clients.

### Public Law Practice

In 1996 he headed Russell McVeagh's newly established public law practice in Wellington. In this role he advised and represented a range of local and international corporate clients on regulatory issues including high level negotiations with Central Government in relation to a



variety of policy and legislative issues. Clients included: IBM; the New Zealand Tourism Board; Westfield; Dow; Daewoo; TVNZ; NZ Dairy Group and Fonterra. He worked extensively on public law issues involved in the establishment of Fonterra which involved major changes to government policy and new legislation.

## **Government Advisory Work and Public Interest Environmental Litigation**

Mike has undertaken high level advisory roles to Government on major legislative and policy reforms including: local government and environmental administration reforms in the mid 1970's and 1980's; and expert reviews of the Resource Management Act (1997 and 2009).

In 2011 he prepared a joint report (with ERM) for the Ministry of Economic Development on New Zealand's offshore health, safety and environmental legislative regime for oil and gas exploration and development. In 2013 he chaired a Local Government Efficiency Task Force appointed by the Minister of Local Government to recommend changes to local government legal and policy approaches.

Mike has successfully represented environmental organisations in major conservation litigation including: Queen Elizabeth II Trust (Motu River Water Conservation Order – New Zealand's first water conservation order); Waterfront Watch, Wellington (waterfront development issues); and the Central Otago Environmental Society (Project Hayes Windfarm and Nevis River Water Conservation Order).

## **Current Practice**

Since the establishment of Holm Majurey in 2009 Mike has provided strategic advice to a wide range of local and international clients on a variety of high level public law matters and advised and represented clients in contentious resource consent and environmental issues related to major development projects throughout New Zealand.