



Curriculum vitae – John McElhinney

John joined Griffins Lawyers, in Adelaide in July 2004.

John specialises in Local Government, Planning and Environmental Law.

Qualifications

Admitted as a practitioner of the Supreme Court of South Australia

Bachelor of Laws, Adelaide University

Graduate Diploma Town Planning, University of South Australia

Professional Experience

- John has specialised in environmental and planning law for over thirty years. Prior to joining Griffins Lawyers he was a consultant at Hunt & Hunt Lawyers for two and a half years and prior to that a partner at Ward & Partners for many years.
- John practices in the Environment, Resources and Development Court and in the Wardens Court and the Land and Valuation Division of the Supreme Court. He appears regularly as counsel in these jurisdictions and is often instructed as counsel by other law firms to appear in these specialist jurisdictions.
- John has been instructed by state and local government departments and our commercial clients to advise on environmental legislation affecting their operations. Such advice includes drafting submissions to government and local government bodies and preparing draft legislation. His advice is often proactive and directed towards the identification and minimisation of potential environmental liability but achieving sustainable development. He has advised regularly on the environmental treatment of third party products.
- Allied with his practice in environmental and planning law John has had extensive experience in property law including conveyancing.

Recent Experience

Without being exhaustive, John's recent experience includes:

- Integrated Waste Services: Major Waste Transfer Station (Wingfield) & Landfill (Dublin).
- Kimberly-Clark Australia Pty Ltd: Obtaining approvals for significant expansion of and remedial clean up of its Millicent (SA) mill including negotiations with the South Australian Government, local authorities, Environment Protection Authority and US attorneys.
- Urban Pacific: Negotiations with State Government regarding environmental issues and obtaining approval for major Promenade residential development.

Curriculum vitae – John McElhinney continued

- Collex: Litigation, advice and obtaining approval for major liquid waste plant at Kilburn SA. Involvement in this leading South Australian case on what constitutes a noxious industry.
- Karidis Corporation: Successful negotiations with Local Government Authority and Environment Protection Authority regarding new retirement village abutting major printing operation of PMP in Adelaide with major environmental (noise) issues.
- Australia Post: Successful litigation and Environment Protection Authority negotiations regarding polluted site in eastern Adelaide. General environmental advice to client.
- Koumi Corporation: Successful negotiations regarding remediation and reuse of Hensley Industries Pty Ltd foundry site in inner Adelaide. The site has caused significant political, media and public interest.
- City of Holdfast Bay: Continuing role as principal advisor for the Council on the Holdfast Shores Development including negotiating with the developers, preparation and/or settling of all documentation including easements and conveyancing.
- Australia Post: Advising on the major redevelopment of the Adelaide GPO site known as City Central including the review of all easement documentation.
- Marinas: Advice to two separate Local Government Authorities regarding one now developed large marina and another proposed large marina. Advice included environment and planning issues, titling of interests of marina owners and abutting land parcels and advice on community titling as required.

Recent Presentations

Regular presentations to Local Government

Memberships

Law Society of South Australia

Specialist Areas

Planning, Environment and Local Government Law, Commercial and Property Law

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