

# BAL MATHESON

BARRISTER  
LLB (Hons) BA (Hons)

## CURRICULUM VITAE



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Bal Matheson has specialized in environmental, resource management and local government law since 1998. He started his career at Russell McVeagh and remained there until joining the independent bar in December 2016. While at Russell McVeagh, Bal led the environmental and planning team for many years, was a member of the Board of Management for 4 years, and was Chair of the Board of Management between 2014-2016. Since 2011 Bal has been a trustee of Elizabeth Knox Home, a charitable trust for impoverished predominantly elderly residents of Auckland.

Bal accepts instructions in most areas of resource management, environmental and local government law. His practice focuses on large scale urban redevelopment, water, and infrastructure projects, right across New Zealand.

Regarded as a strategic and lateral thinker, Bal is able to provide advice from the outset of any particular project, through to any hearing processes and any subsequent litigation that might ensue. Bal is known for his willingness to challenge assumptions and to provide timely, concise and forthright advice.

Bal is a co-author of the Water chapter, and author of the Air chapter in New Zealand's leading text *Environmental and Resource Management Law*, and is a regular contributor to the *Resource Management Journal*. Bal is a member of the Resource Management Law Association, chaired the Auckland Branch of the Association for a number of years and was subsequently a member of the National Committee of the Association.

Bal is recognized by a number of legal directories, including being ranked as a Band 1 lawyer in *Chambers Asia-Pacific* in 2012, 2013 and 2016.

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## RECENT PROJECTS

Infrastructure projects, urban development, and water and water quality related projects and processes are the focus of Bal's national practice. Recent projects that have been approved or are underway include obtaining the necessary resource consents or other approvals for:

- Sub-regional wastewater treatment plants at Warkworth, Snells Beach, and Omaha for Watercare
- Goldmine beneath Waihi township, for Newmont Asia Pacific
- Retirement villages, for Oceania and BeGroup
- Quarries and cleanfills, for Fulton Hogan and Winstone Aggregates
- Dairy manufacturing plants, for Fonterra
- LPG storage and refilling facility, for OnGas
- Expansion of St Lukes Shopping Centre, for Scentre

Other significant master planning, regional plan, or other processes that Bal has been or is involved with include:

- Development of Westgate Town Centre, for New Zealand Retail Property Group
- Development of landholdings at Wairaka Precinct, Mt Albert, for Unitec
- Leading the submissions on the Infrastructure Chapter of the Auckland Unitary Plan, for Vector, Spark, Chorus, Counties Power and Vodafone
- Advising on and appearing in respect of regional plans in Waikato, Canterbury and Southland, for Fonterra
- Appearing before the Board of Inquiry for the Tukituki Plan Change, including in the subsequent High Court litigation, for Fonterra
- Amending the National Water Conservation (Rakaia River) Order 1988, for Trustpower

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## CAREER HISTORY

### **Partner, Russell McVeagh — 2005-2016**

Appointed to the Partnership on 1 December 2005, after having been with the firm since commencing practice in February 1998.

### **Chair of Board of Management, Russell McVeagh — 2014-2016**

Elected by the Partnership to chair the Board in February 2014 and re-elected in February 2015.

### **Member, Board of Management, Russell McVeagh — 2012-2014**

Elected by the Partnership to the Board in February 2012 and in February 2013.

### **Trustee, Elizabeth Knox Home — 2011-Present**

This is pro bono position on a charitable trust, founded in 1915, that runs a home for the impoverished elderly or those suffering from other illnesses.

### **Committee, Resource Management Law Association — 2007-2012**

Elected to the National Committee between 2010-2012, and prior to that was a member and then chair of the Auckland Branch Committee between 2007-2009.

## EDUCATION

**University of Otago** LLB (Hons) 1<sup>st</sup> Class; BA (Hons) 1<sup>st</sup> Class (1992-1997)

Timaru Boy's High School (1987-1991)

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## PUBLICATIONS

Author of “Air” and co-author of “Water” chapters of the 3rd, 4th, 5th and on-line editions of New Zealand’s leading environmental law textbook, *Environmental & Resource Management Law*, Nolan D A (ed)

“Please Sir, I want some more ...”, Bal Matheson & David Alley, *Resource Management Journal*, April 2015

“A call for regional leadership: Why Regional Policy Statements must enable social, cultural and economic wellbeing”, Bal Matheson, *Resource Management Journal*, August 2013

“Height or Blight? Skyscrapers in the Suburbs”, Bal Matheson & Rachel de Lambert, *Resource Management Journal*, November 2011

“Making Good Decisions: Catching a Fair Wind”, Bal Matheson & Kate McDonald, *Resource Management Journal*, April 2010

## LEGAL DIRECTORY RECOMMENDATIONS

Ranked as a Band 1 Lawyer in *Chambers Asia-Pacific* in 2012, 2013 & 2016.

Listed as a Leading Individual in *The Legal 500* rankings for 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 & 2016.

Recognised by *Best Lawyers* in 2013 & 2016.

## REFEREES

A range of professional and personal referees are available on request.