

Kelvin Reid

Barrister



Canterbury Chambers

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Key areas of practice

- Resource management based litigation. Representing clients before Local Authorities in the Environment Court, the High Court and Court of Appeal.
- Commercial and civil dispute resolution across all of New Zealand's Courts.

Kelvin's practice involves dispute resolution and litigation throughout New Zealand's court system but with a particular focus on Resource Management. Kelvin is often involved in dealing with complex scientific and technical issues in a variety of fields including engineering, building, water allocation and quality, landscape, noise, fisheries issues, accounting amongst others.

Kelvin has been in practice for 21 years and has conducted numerous cases in a variety of courts', statutory tribunals, inquires and arbitrations and mediations.

Background

After graduating with an LLB from Otago University in 1993 Kelvin worked in commercial and criminal litigation at Lane Neave in Christchurch from 1993 to 2001.

In 2001 Kelvin jointly founded the firm Goodman Tavendale Reid, a firm specialising in commercial resource management and primary industry law. Kelvin was chairman of the firm from 2005 to 2010.

In 2011 Kelvin joined the independent bar.

Highlights of professional work and recent experience

My own work for the last five years has been principally, although not exclusively, focused on Resource Management and Environment Law. Some of my work over the last few years included:

- Representing the Christchurch City Council, conducted by the Royal Commission on the Christchurch earthquakes, into the deaths in the collapse of the CTV Building in the Coronial inquest into certain deaths in the CTV Building.
- Representing irrigation companies in litigation on water allocation and quality issues in the Hurunui, Opuha, Opihi, Waiau, Waitaki rivers and in numerous other sub-catchments.
- Various extended litigation with Meridian Energy Limited on behalf of farmers in the Upper Waitaki catchment resulting in the Mackenzie Irrigation Company's agreement with Meridian concerning the allocation of water for irrigation.
- Representing the Mackenzie Irrigation Company before select committees on several occasions and before the Waitaki Catchment Water Allocation Board.

- Acting for three large applicants (approximately 50% of the total water applied for by applicants) in the ongoing Upper Waitaki consent hearing process.
- Acting on behalf of South Island based scampi fishers in long running inquiries before the State Services Commission and Primary Production Select Committee and as co-counsel in litigation concerning the allocation of quota in the scampi fishery: *Goodship v Minister of Fisheries* (No. 1) (30/6/06, Mackenzie J, HC Wellington, CIV-1997-485-13, CP185/97).
- Acting for the groundwater zone irrigation groups (four in total) of between 40 and 70 farmers in each group in applications to take water for irrigation from the Environment Canterbury “Red Zones” before Environment Canterbury and on appeal.
- Acting for Amuri Irrigation Company Limited in hearings concerning the Hurunui Conservation Order, an application for resource consent by Hurunui Water Project and Ngāi Tahu Forest Estates Limited.
- Representing Synlait Limited in plan change applications.
- Representing Te Runanga O Ngāi Tahu in its appeal against the grant of consent to Meridian and Hunter Downs Irrigation Limited and on other strategic and water quality issues.
- Acting for the Christchurch City Council and other local authorities in this enforcement activities under the RMA, Building Act, and the other regulatory contexts.
- Acting as instructing solicitor and junior counsel in the test case *Minaret Station Ltd v Commission of Crown Lands* (LVP2/5) concerning the Crown approach to the setting of rent on pastoral leases, before Land Valuation Tribunal.
- Appointment to the Technical Advisory Group (Infrastructure) to the Minister for the Environment on Phase Two reform of the RMA during 2010.
- Acting for a number of large South Island pastoral lessees in various issues and litigation with the Crown.
- Acting for a number of large fishing companies in litigation with the Crown and in relation to prosecutions.

Publications and Papers

- Paper entitled “Fresh Water Allocation – Issues for Maori” (The Third Annual Maori Legal Forum – June 2006).
- Co-author of a paper for the New Zealand Council for Sustainable Development entitled “Freshwater Management – Towards an improved New Zealand Approach” (2008).
- Presentation entitled “Issues and risks for the funding of Irrigation Development in New Zealand” (Irrigation New Zealand Conference 2010).
- Co-author report to the Minister for the Environment on options to improve the operation of the RMA and Public Works Act (2010).