Mills Oakley launches Brisbane planning & environment practice

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Independent national law firm Mills Oakley is expanding its leading planning & environment practice into Brisbane with the hire of partner **Rayne Nelms** from Thomson Geer.

Mills Oakley already boasts the largest developer-led planning practice in Sydney and is gaining market share in Melbourne. Now, the firm is seeking to replicate the same success in Brisbane.

Commenting on the hire of Mr Nelms, Mills Oakley CEO John Nerurker said that cross-practice collaboration was a critical part of the journey:

"For many years, we have observed the synergies between our planning, construction and property teams and watched our Sydney and Melbourne practices flourish through an integrated approach to property development," he said. "Our Brisbane office has been on the same journey, but until now a planning capability has been the missing piece. Rayne, as a seasoned planning lawyer of nearly 20 years' experience, is the ideal person to bridge that gap."

Rayne's experience is evenly split between DLA Phillips Fox (now DLA Piper) and his most recent firm, Thomson Geer. He has a developer-oriented practice, advising on town planning & environmental approvals, planning & environment litigation, land use compliance and enforcement, infrastructure agreements and charges and compulsory land acquisition. His team regularly advises on some of the highest profile planning disputes in Queensland.

Commenting on his decision to join Mills Oakley, Rayne said that he was excited to be part of the formation of one of the foremost planning practices in Australia:

"Mills Oakley has a clear vision for providing an integrated suite of legal services for property development and I look forward to delivering on that vision in Brisbane, as well as growing the Brisbane and national practice," he said.

Rayne joins the firm today with a team of three lawyers.

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