



## Mills Oakley hires leading planning and environment expert from Clayton Utz

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Leading Australian law firm Mills Oakley has added a new dimension to its national planning & environment capability with the hire of partner **Chris Wiseman** in Melbourne.

Advising on the full range of planning and environment matters, Chris is known as a leading expert in Victoria in environmental impact assessments, land valuation and compulsory land acquisition and compensation and strategic planning and planning disputes in VCAT, the Supreme Court of Victoria and Planning Panels. He has deep experience in advising government departments and agencies on all aspects of approval and compliance processes for major projects, including compliance with Commonwealth and State legislation. As a former General Counsel to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (now Fire Rescue Victoria), Chris also has extensive knowledge and expertise in emergency services and administrative law and Inquiries and Royal Commissions.

Commenting on this hire, Mills Oakley CEO John Nerurker observed that Chris would tap new markets for the national planning & environment practice:

“Our Sydney and Brisbane planning practices are the busiest developer-oriented planning practices in their respective markets. The arrival of Chris allows us to pursue the same success in Melbourne as well as broadening our offering to advising on large government infrastructure projects, which present similar planning challenges to private developer-led projects,” he said.

Commenting on his decision to join Mills Oakley, Chris added:

“The Mills Oakley planning & environment practice already enjoys a strong reputation with a number of large national blue-chip clients and I look forward to strengthening those relationships in Melbourne, as well as continuing to work with my valued clients in the government sector.”

Chris commenced with the firm on August 1.

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