

CURRICULUM VITAE

Lizzy Wiessing, Barrister

I am a lawyer experienced in advising on local government, public law and civil litigation legal issues, having worked in the local government space throughout my career. My practice involves litigation and advice work. I am a member of Kate Sheppard Chambers and have been at the Independent Bar since June 2021.

QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor of Commerce and Administration (Honours), Public Policy – First Class	Victoria University of Wellington	2006
Bachelor of Laws		2005
Bachelor of Commerce and Administration, Economics		2004
Associate of Trinity College London in Solo Piano, Performance	Trinity College London	2004
Admitted to the High Court of New Zealand		February 2008

CAREER

Senior Associate, Simpson Grierson, local government and resource management	August 2014 June 2021
Associate, Simpson Grierson, local government and resource management	June 2012 to July 2014
Solicitor, Holland Beckett, resource management and civil litigation, then solely resource management	July 2008 – May 2012
Policy Analyst Strategic, Western Bay of Plenty District Council	January 2006 – July 2008

EXPERTISE / EXAMPLES OF WORK

Local Government

- SOLGM (now Taituarā) – advice circulated to the sector during Covid lockdowns about the impacts of Covid on annual plan decision-making
- Advising The Treasury/Department of Internal Affairs on alternative method of funding infrastructure (infrastructure funding and financing project) – Infrastructure Funding and Financing Bill
- Local Government Act 2002 - Long term plans/annual plans/annual reports – advising on compliance, reviewing documents, advising on consultation

requirements, reviewing development contributions policies, advising on resolving irregularities

- Standing orders/meeting process – reviewing reports for compliance with decision-making framework, advising on governance issues
- Official information/Privacy – advising on responding to LGOIMA requests/privacy issues around various aspects of collection and use of personal information
- Local Elections – advising on issues around local body elections, reviewing good practice guides for the sector
- Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 - advising councils on a wide-range of rates issues (eg compliance, resolving irregularities, funding/rating reviews)
- Advising councils on their and other parties' liability for events

Litigation

- Junior counsel for Bunnings Limited in rating valuation objection proceedings for Rongotai area (Land Valuation Tribunal and High Court)
- Junior counsel for Auckland Council defending judicial review of the accommodation provider targeted rate (successfully defended at first instance, but under appeal)
- Junior counsel for Southland District Council successfully defending judicial review of wastewater rate assessed to a lifestyle village (May 2019)
- Junior counsel for Kaipara District Council and Northland Regional Council in judicial review challenging the way rates were set and assessed (High Court, Court of Appeal, Supreme Court (leave)), successfully defended for the Councils (ended 2018)
- Involved in team for Wellington City Council defending judicial review by Meridian Energy Limited challenging the Council's decision to divide rating units used for wind farms, and the categorisation of those into a commercial differential category, successfully defended for the Council (ended 2016)
- Junior counsel for Kaipara District Council in judicial review challenging decisions relating to development of EcoCare Wastewater Scheme and subsequent rating decisions (High Court, Court of Appeal, Supreme Court (leave)), successfully defended for the Council (ended 2016)
- Involved in team for Kaipara District Council suing the Controller and Auditor-General for negligence and breach of the Fair Trading Act 1986 in auditing services provided, settled after mediation (ended 2015)
- Acting for applicant challenging a council's assessment of development contributions (settled before hearing, 2011)

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS

Presentations

- Presented on rating issues, and led break-out sessions, at every Association of Local Government Rating New Zealand conference held since 2014
- Presented on funding and rating issues at every SOLGM Funding and Rating Forum 2013-2018 and 2020
- Presented at SOLGM Strategic Finance Forums in 2017 and 2018

Publications

Author/Co-author

- *Court upholds high threshold for unreasonableness challenges to rates*, Simpson Grierson Publications, August 2019
<https://www.simpsongrierson.com/articles/2019/court-upholds-high-threshold-for-unreasonableness-challenges-to-rates>
- *Another step forward in the discussion on local government funding and financing*, Simpson Grierson Publications, July 2019
<https://www.simpsongrierson.com/articles/2019/another-step-forward-in-the-discussion-on-local-government-funding-and-financing>
- *Court of Appeal confirms ratepayers cannot refuse to pay rates because of alleged issues with rates assessments and invoices*, Simpson Grierson Publications, November 2018
<https://www.simpsongrierson.com/articles/2018/court-of-appeal-confirms-ratepayers-cannot-refuse-to-pay-rates> and republished with permission by Legalwise <https://legalwise.slatecreative.com.au/nz/alleged-issues-with-invoices-no-excuse-for-non-payment-of-rates-court-of-appeal/>
- *Upcoming changes to New Zealand's courts and court procedure – what local government needs to know*, Simpson Grierson Publications, October 2016
<https://www.simpsongrierson.com/articles/2016/upcoming-changes-to-new-zealands-courts-and-court-procedure>

Peer/Legal Reviewer

- *Local Government Know-How Rating* (2013) for Local Government New Zealand and New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers
- *Guide to Undertaking Effective Rating Reviews* (2017) for New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers
- *Code of Good Practice for Management of Local Authority Elections and Polls* (2019) for New Zealand Society of Local Government Managers (extracts)