

Kevin Counsell

Associate Director



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Mr. Kevin Counsell is an economic expert specialising in environmental, infrastructural, competition and regulatory economics. He provides economic analysis on environmental policies and commercial infrastructure decisions affecting the environment, and has served as an expert witness before the New Zealand Environment Court and independent hearings panels. He regularly advises clients on issues relating to mergers and anticompetitive behaviour, and the regulation of utility companies. Mr. Counsell's experience spans a wide range of geographies, including, New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom and Asia.

In the environment and infrastructure space, Mr. Counsell has considerable experience assessing the costs and benefits of environmental regulations, and analysing the economic impacts of investments affecting the environment. His recent case experience includes economic analysis in respect of transport investments, a marine reserve, a mining operation, an aquaculture farm, regulations affecting agriculture and horticulture farming, and zoning regulations for a property development. Mr. Counsell also has extensive experience on issues relating to water and climate change policy, including, approaches to implementing water markets, policy design for the water and waste water sectors, and emissions pricing and trading policies.

In competition and regulatory economics, Mr. Counsell advises clients on the competitive effects of mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, anticompetitive behaviour, contracting issues, foreclosure and price fixing. He has provided economic advice to both utility companies and government regulators on the design and operation of regulated pricing frameworks across a host of industries, including, telecommunications, post, electricity, gas, water and airports.

Education

MCA in economics, with Distinction; Victoria University of Wellington

BCA in economics, with Honours (First Class), Victoria University of Wellington

BSc in mathematics, Victoria University of Wellington

Publications

- *Fast-Tracking Projects for New Zealand's COVID-19 Recovery: The Role of Economic Analysis*
- *Failing Firm Merger Analysis in the Shadow of COVID-19*
- *Resource Management System Review: Submission on the Issues and Options Paper*
- *NERA Letter to the Reserve Bank of New Zealand*
- *Privacy Versus Views: A Law and Economics Approach to Balancing Conflicting Urban Values*
- *Using Price Signals to Better Manage Water Use*
- *Can't Get No Satisfaction? Measuring Economic Wellbeing Under the RMA*

- *Quantifying Benefits and Costs under the Resource Management Act: Lessons from Commerce Commission Decision-Making*
- *A Cross-Sector and Cross-Country Review of Approaches to Transitioning to Markets*
- *Objective RMA Decision-Making: Cost Benefit Analysis as an Economic and Practical Framework*
- *An Assessment of the DIRA Triggers*
- *The Impact of the Zespri Kiwifruit Export Monopoly on Innovation Incentives*

Practice Areas

Antitrust and Competition

Communications, Media, and Internet

Environmental Economics

Regulatory Economics

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