
Client Update - March 2023

It's been a busy start to the year for the Greenwood Roche team and we are excited to share a few pieces of news, which reflect our position as New Zealand's leading national projects law firm.

Since we opened our first office in 2005, our team has expanded to include more than 50 lawyers led by 16 partners across our three hubs in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

This update is an opportunity to share with you some of the growing successes and developments of our team, reflecting the commitment to our clients we all share.

Lauren Semple appointed to the Environment Court bench (Christchurch)

It's unusual for the departure of a senior colleague to be a positive event, but in this case, we're delighted.

On 27 February Partner Lauren Semple's appointment to the bench of the Environment Court was formally confirmed and she will don her robes from 24 March, sitting in Wellington.

Lauren has been an invaluable part of our team since we established our Christchurch office a decade ago where, as part of our successful Planning and Environment team, Lauren was a leading legal advisor involved with the Christchurch rebuild. In that regard her work involved a number of key projects for the city, including development of the Central City Recovery Plan ("the Blueprint"), consenting the rebuild of both Christchurch and Burwood Hospitals, the temporary Stadium, the Justice and Emergency Precinct and delivering the *Whakaro* Avon River Corridor Regeneration Plan. Recently, Lauren has been leading the consenting of the new Dunedin Hospital, advising the Crown on renewable energy generation options and utilising the Covid-Fast Track legislation to develop increased residential housing options throughout greater Christchurch.

Since Lauren's arrival in 2012, our Planning and Environment specialty has expanded north and grown rapidly. We now have a national team of nine, spread across all three offices and forming a crucial part of our project offering. The team will continue to be led by Partner Francelle Lupis who joined us in our Auckland office in 2016.

Lauren's appointment is a well-deserved recognition of Lauren's qualities, the projects she has enabled, and the regard with which she is held within the sector – as well the strength and standing of our Planning and Environment team. Lauren leaves with the full support of the entire team at Greenwood Roche and the immense gratitude of the Partners for her work here.

Rachel Murdoch named Property Council Young Achiever of the Year (Christchurch)

Christchurch-based Senior Associate Rachel Murdoch was recently awarded the Property Council of New Zealand Young Achiever of the Year Award for 2022.

This award recognises her crucial role in a range of significant projects across the country, including the Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor Regeneration Plan, Te Kaha multi-use arena and the Christchurch Cathedral, the new Dunedin Hospital and a number of significant Covid-Fast Track developments.

In addition to Planning and Environment, the Christchurch office has grown to include Real Estate and Construction practices, forming part of our national teams in those disciplines.

Nick Dunn appointed Partner (Wellington)

Wellington-based Principal Nick Dunn will join the partnership effective from 1 April 2023 (subject to Law Society requirements). Nick's promotion was announced internally in September 2022, and we are pleased to now share the news more widely.

Nick joined Greenwood Roche in 2006 and re-joined us in 2013, after a brief stint overseas in Seoul, and is admired and respected in equal measure by staff and clients alike.

He has earned a reputation as a trouble-shooter and deal facilitator with a focus on public sector clients, but has also developed a strong market presence in the renewable energy sector. His main focus in recent years has been large-scale housing development projects.

Nick's appointment to Partner is the latest in a long line of internal promotions, and highlights not only the continuity and relationship-based service we offer our clients, but also the strong supportive culture within our firm. Nick will be a great addition to our Real Estate team, which extends to 11 Partners nationally.

His new role will strengthen our Wellington team, which will have nine Partners, and means we are better placed than ever to service our diverse range of clients, while also continuing to ensure our unique culture thrives.

New Year, stunning new offices (Auckland)

Finally, to support the continued growth and development of the Auckland team. We very recently moved into the stunning Hayman Kronfeld Building in Britomart - a heritage refurbishment designed by Peddlethorp Architects.

It has been almost 10 years since Greenwood Roche first opened our Auckland office and the team jumped at the chance to relocate to this exciting new space within the latest Cooper & Co development. Originally two warehouses, the heritage buildings have undergone a significant renovation to become an integrated 5-Green Star office.

For us, the unique space represents how Greenwood Roche continues to stand out from the pack, doing things a little differently and creating a space that can be the hub of our culture despite the plethora of flexible working options available. The larger premises sees the team switch to open-plan working within pods, consistent with our other hubs. It also includes much greater meeting room capacity and features a variety of interesting and bespoke spaces for staff and clients to enjoy alongside our own roof terrace.

We look forward to hosting clients as soon as the final stages of the new interior are ready.

Outlook for 2023

While obvious economic headwinds and political uncertainty seem likely to make 2023 an interesting time to be in the real estate and projects business, we believe that there are still good untapped opportunities and projects there for those who are well connected and innovative - as well as in emerging sectors.

Given that backdrop, we are determined to continue to operate as a genuine participant in our sectors and to continue to innovate to help our clients make the most of opportunities that come their way.

For us that means continuing to focus on identifying and generating opportunities for our clients, not just waiting for the phone to ring, and thinking laterally to help position clients for the challenges of the year ahead.

We will also continue to leverage our large senior team and commercial focus to facilitate transactions and convert opportunities quickly for clients, given the wider uncertainty in the market.

This year will also see us continue to invest behind the scenes in broader outcomes initiatives. Clients will hear more from us about our exciting activity in this area as we seek to increase our work and expand our impact in this space.
