

Property Law

Thursday 15 August 2024

Session 2 – 11:00am - 12:00pm

Panel: Renewables and environmental considerations in property transactions

How is climate change affecting the practise of law for property lawyers? How do you manage the risk of climate change? What does due diligence mean for the lawyer when climate change effects – current or potential – are factors in the lease or sale of land? How does past or potential flooding or fire impact on disclosure, zoning certificates and the development of land? What are the opportunities arising from the transition to renewables for property lawyers? This session will discuss how climate change is already impacting the profession, and what the future might look like for property law. Hear from speakers with backgrounds in agricultural leasing, renewables, conveyancing and the application of Division 7 of Part 3 of the *Conveyancing Act 1919* (NSW), the Reconstruction Authority, water licensing and allocations, and climate change policy.

Meet the speakers

Michael Osborne, Principal, Osbornes Lawyers (moderator)

Michael Osborne is a recognised expert in property law and an Accredited Specialist in this area. He has, since 2014, chaired the Specialist Accreditation Property Law Advisory Committee, which accredits lawyers as property specialists for the Law Society of New South Wales, and is a member of the Law Society's Specialist Accreditation Board. He is also a member of the Law Society's Property Committee. In a career of more than 35 years Michael has overseen thousands of transactions concerning the acquisition, development, management and sale of property. A significant part of his practice involves property development, including development management and syndication agreements, and the common arrangements for acquiring land, such as call options, put and call options and agreements for lease. Michael also has broad experience in general commercial work, including shareholder agreements, the sale and purchase of businesses, and wills and estates.

Dixie Fitzclarence, Senior Consultant, WMD Law

Since Dixie Fitzclarence was admitted as a solicitor in 2004, she has worked in both regional and metropolitan law firms in NSW and the ACT. She is currently a Senior Consultant at WMD Law, primarily practising in property and commercial law from its Far South Coast offices in Bega and Merimbula. She also practises in conveyancing, estate planning including wills, powers of attorney and guardianship, and general litigation. Dixie has experience across a broad range of practice areas, and has acted for a wide variety of private, corporate, small business, local government and not-for-profit clients. She is a member of the Law Society of NSW's Property Law Committee and the Environmental Planning and Development Committee, and has served on the Law Society's Rural Issues Committee. Dixie is a former President of the Far South Coast and Eden Monaro Law Society.



Mark Seymour SC, Barrister, Martin Place Chambers

Mark Seymour is a barrister in Martin Place Chambers specialising in property, administrative and environmental/planning law. Mark came to the Bar in 2004 and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2023. He has practised primarily in the Land and Environment Court though has also appeared in the Federal Circuit and Family Court as well as the Federal Court of Australia on migration and administrative law matters. Mark is also a director and Chair of Belvoir Street Theatre Limited.

Diane Skapinker, Principal, Skapinker Law

Diane Skapinker, an Accredited Specialist in Property Law, specialises in property developments, strata and community titling, acquisitions, disposals, leasing and the property aspects of telecommunications and infrastructure projects. Diane was formerly an Associate Professor of Law at the University of Sydney lecturing in Real Property, Conveyancing and Equity, and since 2009 has been a member of the Property Law Committee of the Law Society of NSW and a member of the subcommittee responsible for drafting the NSW standard form contract for the sale and purchase of land. Diane has been recognised as a leading individual in real estate by Chambers Asia-Pacific, Doyle's Guide, and Best Lawyers Australia.