



Position Description

Title:	Senior Legal Counsel, Environment & Property
Group:	Corporate Services
Reports to:	General Counsel, Environment & Property
Indicative Band:	18
Date:	October 2021

Context

Our purpose ***Waka Kotahi. Moving. Together***

A land transport system connecting people, products and places for a thriving Aotearoa.

Group and team purpose

Corporate Support are enablers, advisors and the people who keep the Waka Kotahi safe. Corporate Support includes Finance, Legal, Risk and Assurance, Research and Analytics, Procurement, and Enterprise Change. For Waka Kotahi to be successful, Corporate Support needs to deliver quality services efficiently.

The Legal Team is here to enable Waka Kotahi to meet its strategic objectives by providing solution focused legal advice, and to help it comply with the law and mitigate its legal risks.

Position purpose

The Senior Legal Counsel, Environment & Property provides legal advice across all aspects of property, resource management, environment, planning and roading-related legal work for Waka Kotahi.

Key relationships

Internal:

- Legal Team
- Chief Executive, General Managers and direct reports
- All other business groups

External:

- Government Agencies
- Ministry of Transport
- Public sector legal advisors
- External legal providers, experts and stakeholders
- Transport Sector
- Associated legal professional bodies
- Courts and other regulatory bodies

Dimensions

Location: Auckland or Wellington

What you do counts

Accountabilities As well as being accountable for the Waka Kotahi values and behaviours, your role has the following specific key accountabilities:

Key Accountabilities:

- Identify both legal and commercial risks with key internal and external stakeholders
- Support the legal team by providing legal advice across all aspects of property, resource management, environment, planning and network operation for the agency.
- Contribute to the development of legal strategies that enable the necessary resource consents for the implementation of NZTA capital projects to be secured.
- Lead the implementation of the resource consent legal strategy, including advising on designations, notifications, land use consent hearings and appeals as required.
- Provide fit for purpose legal services – namely, legal services that are accurate, timely, practical, clear and that deliver value for money.
- Provide accurate and timely advice, both written and verbal, on all matters relevant to the operation of organisation, particularly land transport related acts, regulations and rules, state sector-related legislation.
- Work collaboratively with the other members of the Legal Team to support a joined-up Legal Team (recognising that there will be areas of overlap and an opportunity to use resources effectively).

Working effectively with Māori

Te Ara Kotahi – our Māori Strategy – supports Waka Kotahi to work effectively with Māori and is underpinned by uara (values) and our mātaḥono (principles) of – Rangatiratanga, Manaakitanga, Kaitiakitanga, Whanaungatanga, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Mana o te Reo, Huna Kore (no surprises approach), Auahatanga (creativity and innovation), Whakapono (integrity and honesty) and in recognition of Cultural Values.

As Waka Kotahi is an agent of the Crown, Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi is important to everything we say or do. We recognise it as an enduring document central to New Zealand's past, present and future. Building and maintaining meaningful relationships is important to work effectively with Māori, stakeholders and other agencies.

We accept our privileged role and responsibility to the partnership of the Treaty of Waitangi / Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Values and Behaviours

Our values and behaviours underpin everything we do and form the core behavioural expectations for your role.

NGĀKAU AROHA *Have heart* means we have the wellbeing of our people, community and planet at the heart of everything we do. As Waka Kotahi we:

- Contribute to a safe and sustainable work environment.
- Show respect for all people.
- Treat others how we would like to be treated.
- Are inclusive and connected
- Look out for each other

KOTAHITANGA *Better together* means we achieve great things when we work together to build trusted relationships inside and outside of Waka Kotahi. As Waka Kotahi we:

- Build better relationships
- Join up our thinking and our doing
- Remove barriers to collaboration
- Seek and listen to others to learn and grow
- Invite conversation and feedback and always improve

KIA MĀĪA Be brave means our outcomes are better when we bring courage and self-belief to our passion and purpose. As Waka Kotahi we:

- Speak up when it matters
- Challenge to achieve the right outcome
- Make and own the tough decisions
- Find different perspectives to challenge thinking
- Face up to the difficult issues

MAHIA Nail it means we create enduring legacy, delivering our best work every day. As Waka Kotahi we:

- Are clear on what's important
- Deliver on the right outcomes
- Hold ourselves to account
- Help others succeed
- Celebrate success

As a member of the public service we also hold ourselves to the highest standards of integrity and conduct.

SPIRIT OF SERVICE

Ka mahitahi mātou o te ratonga tūmatanui kia hei painga mō ngā tāngata o Aotearoa i āiane, ā, hei ngā rā ki tua hoki. He kawenga tino whaitake tā mātou hei tautoko i te Karauna i runga i āna hononga ki a ngāi Māori i raro i te Tiriti o Waitangi. Ka tautoko mātou i te kāwanatanga manapori. Ka whakakotahingia mātou e te wairua whakarato ki ō mātou hapori, ā, e arahina ana mātou e ngā mātāpono me ngā tikanga matua o te ratonga tūmatanui i roto i ā mātou mahi.

In the public service we work collectively to make a meaningful difference for New Zealanders now and in the future. We have an important role in supporting the Crown in its relationships with Māori under the Treaty of Waitangi. We support democratic government. We are unified by a spirit of service to our communities and guided by the core principles and values of the public service in our work.

More information on all the behaviours and standards are included in the Waka Kotahi Te Tikanga Whanonga – Our Code of Conduct.

The value you will bring

Knowledge and Experience

- Strong law firm and/or in-house experience working with major international companies and complex organizations
- Senior experience in a legal environment
- Commercially astute with sound commercial judgment and acumen

Core competencies

- Self-managing, with high quality decision making
 - Comfortable managing ambiguity and complexity
 - Great knowledge of the Agency
 - Ability to manage accountability
 - A great communicator
 - Resilient and able to manage conflict
 - Self-awareness, and proactive in developing new skills
 - Seen as a developing leader and a go-to person on technical matters
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- Plans and prioritises work
 - Influencer of people across the organisation
 - Identifies new ways of working that help the team work more efficiently and effectively

Qualifications

- Tertiary Law qualifications with at least 5 years PQE
- Current New Zealand Law Society Practising Certificate

You will demonstrate knowledge of, or a willingness to gain an understanding of Te Ao Māori and promote tikanga and Te Reo Māori. You will also have knowledge of, or a willingness to gain an appreciation of te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi) as it applies in the public sector.

To learn more about what we do visit www.nzta.govt.nz