



Advice you can trust

A professional approach to environmental legal compliance

South Africa boasts a unique and diverse variety of natural resources which are both intrinsically and economically valuable. Globally, there is an increased awareness of environmental challenges such as climate change and sustainability.

Environmental legal and sustainable development issues present an ongoing compliance challenge for many businesses. In response to the need to regulate the way in which we interact with our natural environment regulators continue to place new and more stringent demands on businesses to meet enhanced environmental standards.

Navigating these environmental legal requirements can appear daunting and the standards for compliance may seem unattainable.

The Environmental Law team at Eversheds Sutherland has the necessary expertise, experience and passion to ensure that our clients' environmental legal and sustainability requirements are met. We pride ourselves on our dedication and professional approach to providing solutions to our clients' local and global needs.

Our services

Environmental Legal Compliance Auditing and ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems

Whether implemented in fulfilment of the principles of the King IV Report or in terms of the globally recognised ISO 14001 International Standards, our team has considerable expertise in environmental management systems.

We can provide comprehensive advice on the implementation of the ISO 14001 environmental management system and are certified to independently audit those systems from a legal perspective.

Environmental Authorisations, Permitting and Licencing Procedures

We can identify and evaluate the environmental legal requirements of the client and establish the client's need for environmental authorisations, permits, licences or exemptions for, *inter alia*, land use and development, air quality, water use, pollution and waste management, mining and contaminated land.



Environmental Legal Due Diligence

Our team has extensive experience in conducting legal due diligence assessments for mergers and acquisitions and large commercial transactions. By working with a skilled technical team, we can separate material and non-material issues and assess their implications for the transaction.



Environmental Legal Registers

To assist our clients in establishing their environmental legal requirements and to maintain their environmental compliance status we can provide detailed, all-inclusive environmental legal registers.

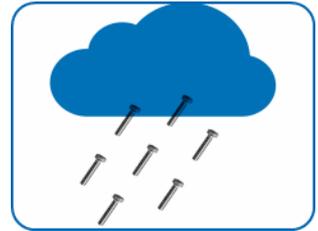
The environmental legal register is compiled based on the client's needs, activities and operations which are established by conducting a thorough assessment of our client's business.

Environmental Legal Advice and Solutions

We have extensive experience in providing legal advice and support on numerous environmental issues including:

- land use and development
- air quality
- water use
- pollution and waste management
- coastal management
- forestry, pulp and paper
- mining
- contaminated land
- hazardous substances

- carbon footprinting
- renewable energy
- climate change
- biodiversity and protected areas
- alien and invasive species
- sustainable development
- heritage resources
- executive and managerial liability
- compliance and enforcement



Environmental Impact Assessment

We have extensive experience in advising on all aspects of the Environmental Impact Assessment processes including identifying and advising on listed activities, drafting and lodging administrative appeals and objections against decisions to approve or reject environmental authorisations and High Court litigation.

Project Management and Staff Training

Our team can project manage and provide the facilitation of and advice on the development of a comprehensive process map for all activities and operations. Further, we can provide legal training and workshops to facilitate skills development and knowledge enhancement in all environmental legal requirements.

Environmental Duty of Care

A duty of care has been placed on every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment. Our team can assist in advising on the most suitable methods of ensuring compliance with the duty of care requirements.

Emergency Incident and Disaster Management

Our team is able to facilitate the development of emergency incident and disaster management policies and procedures. In the event of an emergency incident occurring we can advise on reporting procedures, disaster management and engage with the competent authority.

Interpretation and Drafting of Environmental Legislation

We can provide a detailed analysis and interpretation of environmental legislation and are skilled at translating environmental legislation.

We have the skill and expertise to draft legislation, policy, procedure and standards that ensure that the purpose is met and at the same time conforms with local and international law requirements and standards.

Director's Liability and Criminal Sanctions

Our team can advise on the correct application of environmental legislation to ensure that our client avoids attracting liability. Should unavoidable detriment to the environment occur our team can assist our client in rectifying such detriment.

Risk or Opportunity Identification and Management

The risk or opportunity identification process includes a description of potential positive or negative impacts and recommending actions to enhance opportunities or precautions to reduce the risks.

Identified environmental risks are examined for their severity and mitigation measures are proposed.



Occupational Health, Safety and Environmental Legal Requirements

Our team can provide a detailed analysis of all Occupational Health, Safety and Environmental legal requirements for all activities and operations and provide recommendations to ensure compliance.



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