

[Richard Beasley SC](#)

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Qualifications

1987 – LLB (Hons) (University of Adelaide)
1995 – LLM (University of Sydney)

Awards

Law School Prize for Torts, University of Adelaide, 1983
Blashki & Sons Award for first place in the NSW Bar Exams, August 1997

Professional Recognition

The Best Lawyers in Australia, 2019, '20, '21, '22: Planning and Environment
The Best Lawyers in Australia, 2020, '21, 22: Government Practice

Admissions

1992 – Supreme Court of NSW (Solicitor)
1997 – Supreme Court of NSW (Barrister)
2011 – Appointed Senior Counsel

Principal Areas of Practice

Administrative Law

Royal Commissions and Commissions of Inquiry

Planning and Environment

Valuation and compulsory land acquisition

Some cases or matters of note

Environmental Counsel to the Board of the Environmental Protection Authority (NSW) from 1 January 2023 (3-year term).

Appointed “Commissioner for the Murray River (SA)” by the South Australian Government in August 2022 (4-year term).

Senior Counsel Assisting the *Murray Darling Basin Royal Commission*, February 2018 – February 2019

Senior Counsel Assisting the *Special Commission of Inquiry into the Ruby Princess*, April 2020 – August 2020

Senior Counsel Assisting the Independent Planning Commission into the Santos Narrabri Gas Project, the Dendrobium Mine Extension, the Maxwell Underground Mine, and the Glendell Continued Operations Project, July 2020 - ongoing

Commissioner, *Blue Mountains City Council Public Inquiry*, July 2018 – February 2021 (Inquiry into the Council’s management of asbestos)

Commissioner, *Auburn City Council Public Inquiry*, January 2016 – Feb 2017 (Inquiry into the conduct of the Council concerning various Planning Proposals and development consents)

Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action Incorporated v Environment Protection Authority [2021] NSWLEC 92 (Judicial review/mandamus)

Local Democracy Matters v Minister for Planning [2019] NSWLEC 20 (judicial review) and on appeal: *Local Democracy Matters v Minister for Planning* [2019] NSWCA 65

Stratford Coal v Minister for Planning [2019] NSWLEC 8 (part of Class 1 appeal re coal mine application – see *Gloucester Resources v Minister for Planning* [2019] NSWLEC 7)

SNS Pty Ltd v Roads and Maritime Services [2018] NSWLEC 7 (compulsory acquisition of land)

Millers Point Fund Inc. v Lend Lease (Millers Point) Pty Ltd and Ors [2016] NSWLEC 166

Gosford City Council v Parbery (Liquidator); In the matter of Lehman Bros Aust Ltd (In Liq) [2016] FCA 353 (Contract; insolvency)

Wingecarribee Shire Council v Lehman Brothers Australia Ltd (In Liquidation) - (2014) - drafting submissions for liquidator for binding adjudication on class action (misleading and deceptive conduct/ misrepresentation/breaches of Corporations Law/fiduciary duties)

Hume Coal Pty Limited v Alexander and Anor [2013] NSWLEC 58 (injunction; mining)

ICAC hearing – *Operation Acacia*, 2013.

Downer EDI Limited v Gillies (2012) 92 ACSR 373; (2012) NSWCA 333 (director's duties; Corporations Law; employment law)

Hunter Environmental Lobby Inc. v Minister for Planning [2011] NSWLEC 221 (objector appeal to approval of a coal mine)

Gillies v Downer EDI Limited [2011] NSWSC 1055 (director's duties; Corporations Law; employment law; damages)

Caroona Coal Action Group v Minister for Mineral Resources and Anor [2010] NSWLEC 1; (2010) 172 LGERA 25; (2010) ALMD 3485; (2010) 178 LGERA 411 (judicial review; mining)

Caroona Coal Action Gp v Coal Mines Australia (2010) NSWCA 353 (judicial review; mining)

Brown and Anor v Coal Mines Australia Pty Ltd (2010) 76 NSWSC 473 (judicial review; mining)

Walker Corporation v Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (2009) 173 LGERA 155 (statutory construction; compulsory acquisition of land)

Caroona Coal Action Group v Minister for Mineral Resources and Anor [2009] NSWLEC 165; (2009) 170 LGERA 22; [2010] ALMD 216 (mining; judicial review)

Ulan Coal v Minister for Mineral Resources [2008] NSWCA 174; (2008) 161 LGERA 391 (statutory construction; mining leases)

Walker Corporation v Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (2008) NSWCA 282 and (2009) NSWCA 178 (statutory construction; compulsory acquisition of land)

Hornsby Shire Council v CSR Limited and Ors [2008] NSWSC 1179 and [2013] NSWSC 510 and [2013] NSWSC 1183 (fraud; trade practices/misleading and deceptive conduct; professional negligence; compulsory acquisition)

Environmental Protection Agency v Fulton Hogan Pty Ltd [2008] NSWLEC 286; (2008) 163 LGERA 324 (pollution prosecution)

Ray Fitzpatrick v Minister for Planning [2007] 157 LGERA 100 and [2008] NSWLEC 161 (compulsory acquisition of land)

Maitland Main Collieries v Xstrata Mt Owen [2006] NSWSC 1235 (contractual construction)

Booksan Pty Ltd & Ors; GIO General & Ors v Wehbe & Ors [2006] NSWCA 3 (negligence; insurance)

Laybutt v Glover Gibbs Pty Ltd [2005] HCA 56; (2005) 221 ALR 310; (2005) 79 ALJR 1808 (negligence; employer's duties)

Hornsby Shire Council v CSR Limited and Ors [2004] NSWSC 946 (compulsory acquisition of land; judicial review; tax)

NRMA v Morgan and Ors (1999) NSWSC 407; (1999) 31 ASCR 435; (1999) Aust Tort Reports 81-505 (professional negligence/solicitor's negligence/trade practices/director's duties/Corporations Law)

Achievements outside the Law

Author of five novels and one work of non-fiction:

Dead in the Water (February 2021) published by Allen & Unwin. An account of the environmental degradation of the Murray Darling Basin, and the illegality of the Murray Darling Basin Plan

Hell Has Harbour Views (2001) published by Pan Macmillan. *Hell Has Harbour Views* was adapted into an ABC tele-movie in 2005 by Hilton Cordell Productions and the ABC

The Ambulance Chaser (2004), Pan Macmillan

Me and Rory Macbeath (2013) published by Hachette

Cyanide Games (2016) published by Simon & Schuster, and released as an audio book by Audible

The Burden of Lies (2017), published by Simon & Schuster, and released as an audio book by Audible

Author Website: richardbeasley.com.au

Literary Agent: Tara Wynne, Curtis Brown, Ph: 9361 6161

Other positions

Panel Member, NSW Racing Appeal Panel, 2012 – 2016

Principal Member, NSW Racing Appeal Panel, July 2016 -

Memberships

NSW Bar Association

Australian Society of Authors

PEN Sydney

Centre Circle Group, Sydney Swans Football Club

Australian Turf Club