

Richard Beasley SC

Contact details

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Qualifications

1987 - LLB (Hons) (University of Adelaide)

Honours Thesis: *Domestic Killing, and the defences of Provocation and Self-defence.*

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, 2020, '21, '22, '23, '24, '25: Government Practice

The Best Lawyers in Australia, 2019, '20, '21, '22, '23, '24, '25: Planning and Environment

The Best Lawyers in Australia: "Lawyer of the Year", Planning and Environment, 2022

Doyles Guide: Leading Environment & Planning Barristers: 2018, '19, '23, '24

Admissions

1988 - Supreme Court of South Australia

1992 - Supreme Court of NSW (Solicitor)

1997 - Supreme Court of NSW (Barrister)

2011 - Appointed Senior Counsel

Appointments, cases and matters of note

Commissioner for *Special Commission of Inquiry into NSW Healthcare Funding* (and related matters) August 2023 (reporting date 26 March 2025).

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

Commissioner for the Murray River (appointed by South Australian Government) August 2022 (4-year term).

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

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

Senior Counsel Assisting the Independent Planning Commission of NSW into: *the Santos Narrabri Gas Project; the Dendrobium Mine Extension; the Maxwell Underground Mine; and the Glendell Continued Operations Project*, July 2020 - 2022

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)

Presiding Member, Appeal Panel of Racing NSW, 2016 - (appointed for further 2-year term in February 2024)

Sydney Metro v Expandamesh Pty Ltd [2023] NSWCA 200

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) – appearing 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; released as an audio book by Audible

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

Author Website: richardbeasley.com.au

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

Memberships

The Centre for Public Integrity, Accountability Committee

Australian Society of Authors

PEN Sydney

Australian Turf Club

Sydney Cricket Ground

Liverpool Football Club (UK)

Sydney Swans Football Club