

Matt Harker

Solicitor 2013

Barrister 2021

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Matt works in all areas of law with a particular passion for administrative and planning and environment law. He brings his diverse knowledge and skills to bear on a range of disputes including in employment law, anti-discrimination law, commercial law, property, and consumer and commercial law, across state and federal jurisdictions. He appears both unled and led in all Courts and Tribunals from the Court of Appeal through to the Local Court and NCAT.

Matt adopts a strategic, collaborative and results-focused approach to all matters.

Matt previously completed a Master of Laws with Distinction at University College London, focusing on constitutional and national security law, and worked as an Associate at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Best Lawyers Australia, Ones to Watch 2026
- Planning & Environment Law.

Doyle's Guide 'Planning & Environment
- NSW, 2025': Leading.

Doyle's Guide 'Planning & Environment
- NSW 2024': Recommended.

QUALIFICATIONS

Master of Laws (*Distinction*) University College London | 2015 - 2016

- First place in Aspects of National Security Law.
- First place in Jurisprudence and Legal Theory A.

Bachelor of Arts with the Degree of Bachelor of Laws (*Honours Class I*) Macquarie University | 2007 - 2012

- Holding Redlich Prize for first place in *Litigation* (2011).
- Margaret Thornton Prize for first place in *Discrimination and the Law* (2010).
- Macquarie Law School Prize for first place in *International Human Rights Law* (2010).
- Blake Dawson Waldron Prize for Proficiency in Second Year Law (2008).
- First place in *Australian History Since 1901* (2011).
- First place in *Travel, Tourism and Cultural Production* (2009).

NOTABLE CASES AS A BARRISTER

Appellate

Cameron v Woollahra Municipal Council [2024] NSWCA 216 (led by J Lazarus SC).

May v Northern Beaches Council [2023] NSWCA 205 (unled).

Altius Pty Ltd v Abignano Nominees Pty Ltd [2023] NSWCA 177 (led by T Lynch SC).

Royal Caribbean Cruises v Rawlings (2022) 107 NSWLR 51 (led by E Cox SC).

Administrative Law

Liverpool City Council v Minister for Local Government and Ors [2024] NSWLEC 94 (led by N Sharp SC).

Harry v Inner West Council (No 3) [2024] NSWSC 1027 (unled).

Seek Justice Pty Ltd v Minister for Planning (No 2) [2024] NSWLEC 68 (unled).

Darley v City of Parramatta [2024] NSWCATAD 271 (unled).

Randwick City Council v Belle Living Pty Ltd (No 2) [2023] NSWLEC 100 (led by J Lazarus SC).

Ballina Shire Council v Joblin [2022] NSWLEC 90 (unled).

Elmasri v Transport for NSW [2021] NSWSC 929 (led by B Tronson).

Calvo v Minister for Home Affairs (AAT- unreported).

Coronial

Inquests and Inquiries into the 2019/2020 NSW Bushfire Season (led by A Casselden SC).

Planning and Environment

Belle Living Pty Ltd v Randwick City Council [2024] NSWLEC 1364 (led by J Lazarus SC).

Vortex Developments Pty Ltd trading as Plannex Environmental Planning v The Council of the Municipality of Kiama [2024] NSWLEC 1755 (led by M Wright SC).

Blackman v Dungog Shire Council [2024] NSWLEC 1792 (unled).

PDS Engineering Division Pty Ltd v North Sydney Council [2024] NSWLEC 1722 (led by M Wright SC).

KRV Investments Pty Ltd v Liverpool City Council [2024] NSWLEC 1738 (unled).

Flanagan Avenue Pty Ltd v Liverpool City Council [2022] NSWLEC 152 (unled).

Mirvac Retail Sub SPV Pty Limited v City of Canada Bay Council [2021] NSWLEC 1598 (unled).

Muscat Developments Pty Ltd v Wollondilly Shire Council [2021] NSWLEC 1738 (led by M Astill).

Commercial

In the matter of Netlinkz Limited (2024 – Supreme Court) (unled).

El Rihani v Hotait (No 2) [2023] FCA 375 (led by T Lynch SC).

The Owners – Strata Plan No. 91016 v Upright Builders Pty Ltd (No 2) [2023] NSWSC 867 (led by I Roberts SC).

Chopsonion Pty Ltd (Controllers Appointed) v Watts Meat Machinery Pty Ltd (No 2) [2022] FCA 327 (unled).

Employment

Fair Work Ombudsman v Chatime Australia Pty Ltd (No 2) [2023] FedCFamC2G 712 (led by J Darams SC).

Contempt

Fairfield City Council v Camilleri [2024] NSWLEC 56 (unled).

NOTABLE CASES AS A SOLICITOR

White v Ballina Shire Council [2021] NSWLEC 1468.

DRX v City of Canada Bay Council [2020] NSWCATAD 26.

Kastanias v Georges River Council [2020] NSWCATAD 213.

Fisher v Commissioner of Police, NSW Police Force [2019] NSWCATAD 205.

MJ Trading Services Pty Ltd v Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority [2018] NSWCATAD 260.

Mini Pupil - 39 Essex Chambers | London, April 2016

Administrative Appeals Tribunal

Associate to Deputy President Constance | August 2014 - September 2015

Associate to Deputy President Handley | December 2013 - August 2014