

# James Ross

Director



James Ross is a Director in our Corporate & Commercial practice, advising on specialised environmental law, oil and gas law and other regulatory matters in various corporate and industrial sectors, including renewable energy, upstream petroleum, project development and manufacturing.

James experience includes assisting local and multinational energy companies, project developers and industry associations, as well as multinational insurers in relation to the provision of warranty and indemnity insurance. In addition, he engages regulators in relation to the development of legislation in South Africa on behalf of private industry.

## About James

James joined Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr as a Senior Associate in 2024. Prior to joining CDH, James practiced for a period of five years in the environmental team of Norton Rose Fulbright South Africa.

James was appointed as a Director in April 2025.

## Credentials

### Education

- Admitted as an attorney: March 2017
- LLB
- LLM: Environmental law
- Postgraduate Certification in Corporate Law: 2019

## Experience

- Carrying out detailed environmental due diligences on behalf of various developers and lenders in respect of large-scale renewable energy developments.
- Advising international oil companies and major stakeholders in the South African upstream petroleum industry in respect of both regulatory and commercial matters.
- Drafting, negotiating and concluding agreements involving the transfer of participating interests in offshore exploration rights.

## Contact James

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## Expertise

Corporate & Commercial Law

Environmental Law

Oil & Gas

Mining & Minerals

## Location

Cape Town

## Language

English

- Engaging with regulatory authorities on behalf of the Offshore Petroleum Association of South Africa.
- Providing warranty and indemnity insurance advice to multinational insurers.
- Advising on various proposed energy developments in connection with the 2020 Risk Mitigation IPP Procurement Programme, including the review of project documents and preparation of environmental opinions and bid documents.
- Performing company secretarial duties on behalf of oil and gas industry associations and individual entities.
- Providing advice to international maritime insurance underwriters in relation to environmental liability.
- Advising major importers and retailers in relation to various regulatory decisions and engaging with regulators on their behalf.
- Assisting various European and international airlines on litigation and dispute resolution processes in a team management capacity.
- Advising upstream petroleum companies on supply chain risks posed by COVID-19.
- Provided detailed legal opinions and advised a consortium comprising Enel Green Power South Africa and others/ the Community Trust Holdco and Vusa as Bidder to submit a response to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy's request for qualification and proposals for new generation capacity under the REIPP Procurement Programme. Our opinions covered the key environmental consents as well as additional prescribed considerations in respect of 11 projects which were successfully submitted for Round 5 of the REIPPPP programme.
- Advised a consortium comprising Mulilo Renewable Project Development (Pty) Limited and others as Bidder in respect of 9 solar projects and 1 wind project and provided detailed environmental opinions in support of their bid submission to Round 5 of the REIPPPP.
- Advised Infinity Power Holdings BV (as bidder) on 6 projects and provided detailed environmental opinions in support of their bid submission to Round 5 of the government's REIPPPP.
- Advised a consortium comprising Mulilo Renewable Project Development (Pty) Limited and others as Bidder and provided detailed environmental opinions in support of their bid response to Round 6 of the REIPPPP.
- Advised Infinity Power Holdings BV (as bidder) on 11 projects and provided detailed environmental opinions in support of their bid response to Round 6.

## News

### [Publication of the Draft Regulations of the Upstream Petroleum Resources Development Act for public comment](#)

On 14 April 2025, the Minister of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, Mr Gwede Mantashe, published the draft Regulations for public comment in GN.6123 GG.52507.

### [New environmental appeal regulations: Key developments](#)

On 13 March 2025, the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment published the National Appeal Regulations, 2025 (New Appeal Regulations) in terms of sections 43, 44(1)(a), 44(1)(b) and 47 of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998(NEMA).

### [The Impact of the Climate Change Act on the Mining Industry](#)

James Ross, Senior Associate in the Corporate & Commercial practice, was recently featured in Engineering News and Mining Weekly, where he discussed 'The Impact of the Climate Change Act on the Mining Industry.'

### [Carbon Tax Phase Two: Impact on the agricultural sector](#)

On 13 November 2024, National Treasury released the Discussion Paper on Phase Two of the South African Carbon Tax (Discussion Paper). In a media statement published alongside the Discussion Paper, National Treasury invited stakeholders to submit their written comments and proposals on the paper by 13 December 2024. This alert unpacks the current status of the carbon tax and its anticipated impact on the agricultural sector in the near future.

### [Legislation on the move: The President signs the Upstream Petroleum Resources Development Act](#)

The Upstream Petroleum Resources Development Bill (now the Upstream Petroleum Resources Development Act, 23 of 2024) (Act) was finally assented to by the President on 25 October 2024 and published in the Government Gazette on 29 October 2024.

## Videos

### [Exploring the potential impact of the gas amendment bill on South Africa's energy landscape](#)

James Ross, Senior Associate in the Corporate & Commercial practice and Oil & Gas sector joined Dan Moyane on eNCA where he discussed Charting the Course: Exploring the Potential Impact of the Gas Amendment Bill on South Africa's Energy Landscape.

[All news by James Ross →](#)