

Alecia Pienaar

Counsel



Alecia Pienaar is Counsel in our Corporate & Commercial practice, advising on specialised environmental law matters in various corporate and industrial sectors.

About Alecia

Alecia joined CDH in 2016 as candidate attorney and was appointed as Associate in 2018. She was promoted to Senior Associate in 2021. In 2022, Alecia joined the Private Markets team at Mainstream Renewable Power South Africa, and rejoined CDH in 2023 as Counsel.

Credentials

Education

- LLB, North West University, Potchefstroom
- LLM, University of Cape Town
- Certificate of Competence in Climate Change & Energy Law, University of Witwatersrand
- Certificate of Completion in Finance, Contracts & Risk Mitigation for Private Power Investment in Africa, University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business
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Experience

- Conducting environmental, regulatory and health and safety due diligence investigations in respect of entities operating or providing services in various C&I sectors.
- Advising IPPs on bid readiness and participating in bid preparation for renewable and non-renewable projects in the REIPPPP and RMIPPPP.
- Preparing REIPPPP and RMIPPPP bid requirement environmental legal opinions for solar, wind and gas facilities.
- Preparing legal opinions and advising clients on all aspects of environmental law, including regulation of air quality, water, biodiversity, waste management, climate change, and contaminated land.

Contact Alecia

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[Alecia on LinkedIn](#)

Expertise

[Corporate & Commercial Law](#)

[Environmental Law](#)

[Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fishing](#)

[Mining & Minerals](#)

[Insurance Law](#)

Location

[Cape Town](#)

Language

[Afrikaans](#)

[English](#)

- Reviewing and assisting clients with environmental and other regulatory permits applications.
- Assisting clients with administrative appeal and review applications.
- Offering advice to clients on specialized environmental areas, including environmental attributes, biodiversity offsets, bioprospecting, greenhouse gas emission reporting and financial provisioning.

News

[Recent environmental law developments impacting solar, battery and grid infrastructure projects](#)

Solar PV and BESS projects excluded from environmental authorisation requirements under specified circumstances Over the past couple of years, several initiatives and revisions have been introduced to the environmental and energy legal framework to reduce regulatory red tape that may unnecessarily hinder project development and implementation. Given the ongoing and future risk of shortage of sufficient electricity supply to meet demand, regulators have consistently sought to alleviate overly cumbersome long-lead permitting processes within the energy sectorspecifically.

[A snapshot of South Africa's draft Integrated Resource Plan 2023](#)

Following its release on 4 January 2024, and aiming to garner further public input, the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy recently announced the extension of the commenting period for the draft Integrated Resource Plan 2023 (Draft IRP) to 23 March 2024.

[Update on Interim Grid Capacity Allocation Rules: Eskom clarifies guarantee requirements](#)

On 3 November 2023, Eskom hosted a presentation to update industry on the implementation of the Interim Grid Capacity Allocation Rules (IGCAR). As discussed in our previous alert , the IGCAR were first released in June 2023, shifting the grid capacity allocation process from a 'first come, first served' approach to a new regime based on a 'first-ready, first served' principle.

[Eskom publishes Generation Connection Capacity Assessment \(2025\)](#)

Eskom published its updated Generation Connection Capacity Assessment (2025) (GCCA) at the end of October 2023.

[Eskom's grid allocation rules: On your marks, ready, set, halt!](#)

The national grid, which facilitates the conveyance of electricity between points of generation and offtake, is a pivotal piece of South Africa's energy infrastructure. Owing to the country's historical reliance on coal as a main energy generation resource, the development and upkeep of the national grid was primarily centred around Eskom's coal fleet in Mpumalanga, with little attention paid to implementing the same level of upkeep in other areas of the country where renewable energy resources are most concentrated.

Videos

[Companies to take heed of mounting climate change litigation risks, advises Alecia Pienaar, Counsel in our Environmental Law practice during a eNCA interview.](#)

[All news by Alecia Pienaar →](#)