

Alistair Young

Director



Alistair Young is a Director in our Corporate & Commercial practice. He completed his articles through a general practice firm of Attorneys based in Cape Town whereafter he specialised in the practice of Environmental Law, with a particular focus on drafting and presenting the environmental findings of due diligence investigations for lenders and investors regarding wind and solar (concentrated and photovoltaic) projects associated with the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme as well as coal independent power producer projects and the funding of new mine projects.

Alistair has developed and presented online renewable energy workshops that focus on the environmental authorisation, licensing and permit requirements of renewable energy projects and the numerous environmental legal complications that could arise during the project development and operational phases.

About Alistair

Alistair is an admitted Attorney who completed his tertiary education at the University of Cape Town where he obtained a BA degree specialising in environmental science, a LLB degree, and a Master's degree focusing on International and South African Environmental Law.

His focus of due diligence investigations was on identifying the environmental legal risks associated with such projects including the environmental licensing, permitting and authorisation requirements and possible objections and appeals by interested and affected parties. Alistair has also represented numerous renewable energy developers relating to appeals and judicial reviews by interested and affected parties against the issuing of environmental authorisations for proposed renewable energy projects.

Alistair joined Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr as a Senior Associate in 2022 and was appointed as a Director in 2023.

Credentials

Education

- Registered with the Legal Practice Council
- BA (Environmental Science), University of Cape Town, 1997 to 1999
- LLB, University of Cape Town, 2000 to 2002
- LLM (Environmental Law), University of Cape Town, 2003 to 2004
- Practical Legal Training (PLT) programme January 2004 – June 2004

Contact Alistair

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Expertise

[Corporate & Commercial Law](#)

[Environmental Law](#)

[Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fishing](#)

[Mining & Minerals](#)

[Oil & Gas](#)

Location

Johannesburg

Language

English



- GRI Certified Course on Sustainability Reporting
- Practice Management Training – LEAD, June – October 2021
- Admitted and enrolled as an Attorney in the Cape of Good Hope Provincial Division, March 2006

Experience

- Advising Cennergi in respect of its Lephalale photovoltaic (PV) project, which entails the development, financing, construction and operation of a circa 80MW PV plant that will supply the Grootegeeluk mine with energy under a long-term power purchase agreement. The project is part of Exxaro's decarbonisation strategy with a gradual diversification away from the coal generated electricity and by investing in growth in clean energy. As part of conducting a due diligence process, our team is responsible for assisting and advising on all necessary consents and permits that are required for financial close. The mandate has also extended to providing additional assistance with project development.
- Advising Engie as the purchaser in the proposed sale and the proposed on-sale of the entire shareholding interest in the target or by certain of the target's wholly-owned subsidiaries of their entire shareholding in various of the target's wholly-owned subsidiaries to Engie. Furthermore, the proposed on-sale by Engie of all of the shares held by the target group in the Kipeto Project Company (or the Kipeto Project Company's holding company) to Meridiam following the implementation of the proposed transaction. In this matter, we played a significant role in setting out the high level key aspects of environmental law compliance in respect of each of the relevant members of the target group. The environmental legal assessment pertained to a number of operational projects of the target, including Golden Valley Project, Kipeto Project, Konkonsies Project and MSP Solar.
- Drafting and presenting the environmental findings of due diligence investigations for lenders and investors regarding wind and solar (concentrated and photovoltaic) projects associated with the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme as well as coal independent power producer projects and the funding of new mine projects.
- Drafting environmental and health and safety sections of both vendor and red flag due diligence reports relating to a wide spectrum of industries in sectors including but not limited to retail, food and beverage manufacturing, waste management, import, manufacture and distribution of hazardous chemical substances, mining, medical, petroleum, small-scale household and industrial solar energy and aviation.
- Advising and assisting a junior gold mining company with formulating responses to directives issued by the Department of Water and Sanitation in terms of section 53 of the National Water Act.
- Formulating and developing environmental law course content and thereafter presenting the training sessions for clients in the mining and industrial sectors. The training courses covered a range of environmental law issues including water, waste, air quality, EIA, mining, director liability and biodiversity.
- Assisting developers of renewable energy projects with the drafting of answering affidavits to judicial review applications initiated by interested and affected parties against the administrative decisions to grant environmental authorisations for renewable energy facilities.
- Alistair has assisted various clients operating in different sectors with strategic environmental legal advice relating to environmental legal compliance in scenarios where compliance action has been threatened or initiated.

News

Big boost for a South African green hydrogen economy as new tools released

On 17 February 2025 two key environmental planning tools were published with the aim of guiding and supporting the responsible development of green hydrogen projects which will play an important role in South Africa's commitment to achieving a Just Energy Transition by replacing the use of fossil fuels in the fertilizer industry and in other hard-to-abate industries such as the heavy mobility, steel and cement industries.

[Significant changes proposed to waste exclusion legal regime](#)

The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (Minister) recently published draft regulations (Draft Regulations) that propose to amend the Regulations regarding the Exclusion of a Waste Stream or a Portion of a Waste Stream from the Definition of Waste, 2018 (Exclusion Regulations), as published under the National Environmental Management: Waste Act: 59 of 2008 (NEMWA).

[Water infrastructure in South Africa: The promise and limitations of the new South African Water Resources Infrastructure Agency](#)

South Africa's water infrastructure is under severe strain due to aging systems, inadequate maintenance and increasing demand driven by urbanisation, population growth and severe climate events. The deterioration of infrastructure has resulted in poor water quality, intermittent supply in some regions, and heightened vulnerability due to drought. Both Cape Town and Gqeberha have recently come close to "Day Zero", when dam levels reached extremely low levels resulting in the implementation of strict water rationing.

[Big boost for a South African green hydrogen economy as new tools released](#)

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[Newly released 2022 Grid Emission Factors Report: A guide to accurate emission reporting for electricity usage](#)

In the face of an increasingly environmentally-conscious landscape, South African businesses have been under pressure to accurately report on their carbon footprint, particularly in relation to Scope 2 emissions.

[All news by Alistair Young →](#)