



**Rhys Davies**

**Partner**

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Rhys Davies has over 15 years' experience advising in relation to a range of environmental, social and governance matters, with an emphasis on developing and financing mining, energy, infrastructure and real estate projects.

Rhys' experience includes advising project sponsors, lenders, funds and governments in relation to regulatory and policy frameworks regarding topics including ecological impacts, climate change, biodiversity loss, human rights and responsible business practices. Rhys has assisted clients to develop and review ESG-related governance measures, policies, strategies, metrics, reporting and disclosures in a number of jurisdictions, under both mandatory and voluntary frameworks. Rhys' regulatory experience includes environmental impact assessment, planning, compulsory acquisition, emissions licencing, contaminated land, mining and natural resources, water, native title and cultural heritage law. Rhys represents his clients in their dealings with stakeholders, commercial partners and regulators and in proceedings before administrative decision-makers, panels and tribunals and in superior courts.

Rhys is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Member of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and a FSA Credential Holder issued by the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board. Rhys is a member of the Governance and Advisory Board for the Australian National Contact Point under the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

Rhys is the International Sustainability & ESG Lead at DLA Piper.

- Public and Administrative Law
- Corporate Responsibility
- Projects, Energy and Infrastructure
- Infrastructure Finance
- Real Estate
- International Trade, Regulatory and Government Affairs
- Environment, Health and Safety

- Energy and Natural Resources
- Life Sciences
- Industrials

- Advising the participants in the Australian Premium Iron Joint Venture in relation to native title, land access and statutory approvals issues associated with the development of the West Pilbara Iron Ore Project in the Pilbara region of Western Australia
- Advising Gold Road Resources Limited in relation to native title, land access and statutory approvals associated with the development of the Yamarna Gold Project in the Central Desert region of Western Australia
- Advising Sandfire Resources NL in relation to native title issues associated with the development of the DeGrussa Copper-Gold Mine

in the Midwest region of Western Australia

- Advising the Destination Brisbane Consortium in relation to native title issues associated with the Queens Wharf Project in central Brisbane
- Advising a confidential client in relation to environmental management matters in the Northern Territory
- Advising a confidential client in relation to contaminated land management matters in Queensland
- Advising juwi Renewable Energy Pty Ltd in relation to land access and approvals issues associated with the development of the DeGrussa Solar Power Project in Western Australia
- Advising Abengoa Solar Power Australia Pty Ltd in relation to the proposed development of the Perenjori Solar Plant Project in Western Australia
- Advising a statutory body in relation to the maintenance of environmental management systems to AS/NZS ISO 14001
- Advising a global car manufacturer in relation to the development of environmental training materials

## CREDENTIALS

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### Professional Qualifications

- Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Western Australia
- Solicitor of the High Court of Australia

### Education

- University of Western Australia, Bachelor of Laws, 2006
- University of Western Australia, Bachelor of Arts (Hons), 2006

### Memberships

- Graduate, Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD)
- Member, Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (MAusIMM)
- Member, International Bar Association
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, National Environmental Law Association
- Member, Energy and Resources Law Association Limited
- Member, Association of International Petroleum Negotiators

Additional qualifications:

- Attorney at the Alabama State Bar
- SASB FSA Credential Holder

## INSIGHTS

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### Publications

#### **The Glasgow Climate Pact: What does it mean for Business?**

23 November 2021

In this article, members of our Sustainability and ESG Steering Committee share their thoughts on eight key themes emerging from COP26 and what they mean for business.

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## Australia introduces offshore renewable energy regulatory regime

8 September 2021

On 2 September 2021, the Australian government introduced the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Bill 2021 (Cth) into Parliament. The Bill follows a consultation process undertaken by the government following a discussion paper in February 2020. The introduction of the Bill is the first step toward the passing into law of a framework to facilitate development, construction, operation and decommissioning of fixed and floating renewable generation and transmission projects within Australia's territorial sea.

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## Credibly incorporating the UN Sustainable Development Goals into bond issues

9 April 2021

On 1 April 2021, the SDG Impact initiative published the final version of its SDG Impact Standards for Bond Issuers, part of a body of work intended to improve use of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across private equity, bond issues and enterprises, including to combat perceptions of "rainbow washing" or "impact washing."

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## Lessons in climate risk reporting on the path to mandatory disclosure: A marathon, not a sprint

11 December 2020

As countries increase the pace of mandatory climate risk disclosure measures aligned with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, the Task Force's most recent status report highlights the extent of the commitment necessary to embed climate risk and opportunity analysis into governance, strategy, risk analysis and performance management – and the need to start early.

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## Africa Down Under Conference 2020

4 November 2020

DLA Piper are proud to be a sponsor of the Africa Down Under Conference 2020. ADU has grown to become the largest African-focused mining event held outside the continent itself, and its importance continues to be reflected in the number of high profile attendees welcomed year after year - Australia's gateway to Africa, and Australia's undisputed mining capital.

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## Three ESG steps to keep your project bankable in 2021

17 September 2020

Version four of the Equator principles will take effect on 1 October 2020, and it introduces three new requirements to the international environmental and social baseline for project finance.

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## ESG in 2020: What African resources-developers should do to prepare

11 August 2020

Africa Connected

The risks inherent in sourcing and bringing to market a diverse range of mineral commodities has meant that the natural resources industry has always been particularly exposed to environmental, social and governance issues, particularly in Africa.

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- *Australia introduces offshore renewable energy regulatory regime*, 8 September 2021
  - *Credibly incorporating the UN Sustainable Development Goals into bond issues*, 9 April 2021
  - *Lessons in climate risk reporting on the path to mandatory disclosure: A marathon, not a sprint*, 11 December 2020
  - *Africa Down Under Conference 2020*, 4 November 2020
  - *Three ESG steps to keep your project bankable in 2021*, 17 September 2020
  - *ESG in 2020: What African resources-developers should do to prepare*, 11 August 2020
  - *Changes to Equator Principles introduce new requirements in relation to human rights, climate change and Indigenous Peoples for project debt*, 22 November 2019
  - *Proposed changes to Equator Principles enhance ESG requirements for project debt*, 25 October 2019

## Events

### Previous

#### **Biden's Climate Summit - what changes can we expect and how could those impact COP26?**

27 April 2021  
Webinar

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#### **WIN In-House Counsel Day 2020, Melbourne**

20 February 2020  
WIN In-House Counsel Day 2020  
Melbourne

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#### **WIN In-House Counsel Day 2020, Brisbane**

19 February 2020  
WIN In-House Counsel Day 2020  
Brisbane

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#### **WIN In-House Counsel Day 2020, Sydney**

18 February 2020  
WIN In-House Counsel Day 2020  
Sydney

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## NEWS

#### **DLA Piper advises Banpu Energy Australia on first renewable power investment in Australia**

7 June 2021

Global law firm DLA Piper is proud to have advised Banpu Energy Australia on its entry into a Securities Sale Agreement for the acquisition of a portfolio of two operating utility scale solar projects in New South Wales from New Energy Solar Limited.

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### **DLA Piper advises POSCO on USD240 million acquisition**

20 May 2021

Global law firm DLA Piper has advised POSCO on its USD240 million acquisition of a 30% equity interest in the Ravensthorpe Nickel Operation in Western Australia.

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### **DLA Piper partners with Datamaran to integrate ESG due diligence**

13 April 2021

DLA Piper has partnered with ESG risk management and data platform, Datamaran, to integrate Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) due diligence into legal due diligence.

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### **DLA Piper advises SO4 on project financing**

22 December 2020

Global law firm DLA Piper has advised dual-listed Australian company Salt Lake Potash (ASX/AIM: SO4) (SO4) on its project financing for the development of the Lake Way Sulphate of Potash (SOP) Project in Western Australia.

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### **DLA Piper advises BNP Paribas, DBS Bank and ING on their Financing of Vena Energy's Wandoan South Battery Energy Storage System**

21 December 2020

DLA Piper is proud to have supported BNP Paribas, DBS Bank and ING Bank N.V on their financing of Vena Energy's AUD120m 100MW/150MWh Wandoan South Battery Energy Storage System (Wandoan South BESS) in Queensland, Australia. All three banks were joint mandated lead arrangers for the Wandoan South BESS which reached financial close on 14 December 2020.

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### **DLA Piper advising Saracen Mineral Holdings on \$16 billion merger with Northern Star Resources**

6 October 2020

DLA Piper is advising Saracen Mineral Holdings Limited (ASX: SAR) on its AUD16 billion merger with Northern Star Resources Limited (ASX: NST).

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### **DLA Piper advises Kalium Lakes on project financing**

16 December 2019

Global law firm DLA Piper has advised Australian exploration and development company Kalium Lakes Limited (ASX: KLL) (Kalium) on

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its project financing for the development of the Beyondie Sulphate of Potash Project in Western Australia.

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