



Pavanie Edirisuriya

Special Counsel

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Pavanie Edirisuriya has a wide range of corporate and commercial experience, including corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, overseas investment, commercial contracts and consumer law and Gambling Act matters.

Pavanie plays a key role in all overseas investment transactions handled in New Zealand. She has extensive knowledge in the overseas investment regime and is considered a specialist by clients, industry participants and the Overseas Investment Office (OIO). Pavanie regularly advises overseas clients investing in New Zealand, particularly in the agriculture, forestry and wine sectors.

She has played a vital role in achieving completion of all recent DLA Piper New Zealand international transactions requiring OIO consent. She works with all national practice areas, coordinating complex transactions and managing client relationships.

Pavanie also advises clients in relation to day-to-day legal matters. She is highly regarded by clients for providing clear, concise and accurate advice, as well as for being practical and commercial.

- Corporate
- Insurance

- Advising Kaingaroa Timberlands (KT) in a transaction involving Harvard Management Company selling its remaining 28.75% interest in KT to Canadian based Public Sector Pension Investment Board. Managed the vendor due diligence process, producing a very detailed vendor due diligence report which could be relied on by prospective purchasers; reviewed and assisted with the sale agreement and completion of the transaction. Coordinated various practice groups and liaised with in-house counsel in the United States and Canada, as well external legal and financial advisors of the multiple parties involved ensuring a smooth process.
- Advising Lianhua Trading Group Limited in its acquisition of a 75% interest in Prime Range Meats Limited, a meat processing and export company which owns a meat processing plant. Advised on all aspects of the transaction which involved undertaking the due diligence review, drafting and negotiating the transaction documents, and obtaining OIO consent for the transaction.
- Advising Shanghai Weiyi Investment & Management Limited on the purchase of 100% of the share capital of Good Health Products Limited. Worked with in-house counsel in Shanghai and their various business units, managing their timelines and expectations.
- Advised a US based investment fund on a transaction involving the sale and lease back of land used for horticultural purposes, which was structured principally as a financing transaction. Involved in the transaction from beginning to end, obtained OIO consent and managed the completion process of the transaction. This was a complex transaction due to the various parties involved and the

structure of the transaction, including the financing nature, property and asset transfers, lease back arrangements and OIO consent. Worked with in-house counsel in the United States, as well as external legal and banking and finance advisors.

- Advised an Australian Fund Manager on multiple transactions involving the purchase of forestry assets in New Zealand. Acted on these acquisitions from beginning to settlement, including assisting with drafting the sale and purchase agreements and obtaining OIO consent. The OIO application process was complex for these transactions, as the forestry assets being purchased were developed and established assets. Worked with the investment advisors of the fund manager in New Zealand, as well as with in-house counsel teams in Australia and the United States.
- Advised a United Kingdom based investment fund in relation to the acquisition of multiple dairy farm 'going concern' businesses.
- Advised Mondelez International Inc. on the New Zealand aspects of a transaction under which Mondelez International Inc. and D.E Master Blenders 1753 B.V. combined their respective coffee businesses through the establishment of a joint venture known as Jacobs Douwe Egberts. The transaction included the transfer of assets of D.E Coffee & Tea New Zealand, a New Zealand company. As the value of consideration attributable to the New Zealand company's assets exceeded NZ\$100 million, OIO consent was required. Managed the OIO application process from beginning to end.
- Advising Mondelez New Zealand on day-to-day legal matters, including sales promotions, advertising campaigns and corporate governance matters.
- Advising Champion Flour Milling Limited on day-to-day legal matters, including commercial and company secretarial matters.
- Advised, and obtained OIO consent for, Yashili New Zealand Dairy Co., Limited on the establishment of a milk processing plant in Pokeno, the cost of which was over \$212 million. Acted, and successfully obtained OIO consent, for China Mengniu Dairy Company Limited on its subsequent takeover of Yashili.

CREDENTIALS

Professional Qualifications

- Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand, 2009

Education

- University of Auckland, BA, 2008
- University of Auckland, LLB, 2008

Memberships

- New Zealand Law Society
- Auckland District Law Society

INSIGHTS

Publications

Pushing for progress

23 September 2021

Our diversity and inclusion programme at DLA Piper in New Zealand has always enlisted and relied on the help of our employee base. Our employees own, drive, and enhance our programme.

Revocation of emergency notification regime and introduction of 'call-in' regime

1 June 2021

NEWS

DLA Piper advises on USD500 million acquisition

9 December 2021

Global law firm DLA Piper has advised Stantec Inc. (TSX, NYSE: STN), a global leader in sustainable design and engineering, on the acquisition of the North America and Asia Pacific engineering and consulting groups of Cardno Limited (ASX: CDD) for aggregate cash consideration of USD500 million (approximately AUD 667 million). The transaction has now completed.

DLA Piper advises leading Australian childcare group on acquisition of Provincial Education Group

9 November 2021

DLA Piper (New Zealand) recommended in the 2021 edition of the Legal 500 Asia Pacific

18 January 2021

DLA Piper New Zealand has been recommended across a broad range of practice areas in the latest edition of the *Legal 500 Asia Pacific*, retaining Tier 1 rankings in both Investment Funds and Insurance.
