

CHAIR



Brendan Brown, Mayne Wetherell, Wellington

Brendan is a partner, and head of the tax practice, at Mayne Wetherell. He specialises in corporate and international taxation and has advised on some of New Zealand's most significant commercial transactions and tax disputes.

SPEAKERS



Vivian Cheng, Chapman Tripp, Wellington

Vivian is an experienced practitioner with over 20 years' experience helping clients with all aspects of New Zealand taxation. She routinely advises clients on the GST exempt/taxable boundary and the issues that arise. Outside of GST, Vivian has a particular focus on business structuring, mergers and acquisitions, financing transactions, and international taxation (including automatic exchange of information).



Howard Davis, Inland Revenue, Wellington

Howard is the Tax Counsel Office's Group Leader (Customer Advice) in Inland Revenue. He was formerly Director (Taxpayer Rulings) and in both roles, since 2004, he has been responsible for Inland Revenue's taxpayer rulings service. Prior to joining Inland Revenue, he worked in law and accounting firms in tax. His principal areas of interest in tax law are tax avoidance, the financial arrangement rules and business taxation.



Savannah Feyter, Bell Gully, Auckland

Savannah is a specialist tax lawyer and advises on all aspects of New Zealand income tax law. She has a particular interest in tax disputes and advocacy and has successfully engaged with Inland Revenue on behalf of her clients on a number of complex issues, including the capital/revenue distinction. Savannah also routinely advises on the tax aspects of corporate transactional and financing matters, and has significant experience advising high net worth clients regarding complex cross-border tax issues.



Chris Harker, Mayne Wetherell, Auckland

Chris is a tax partner and has extensive experience advising on mergers and acquisitions, restructures, infrastructure projects (including Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and renewable energy projects), and financing arrangements. He has also acted for clients seeking binding rulings from Inland Revenue in respect of prospective transactions and represented clients in respect of Inland Revenue investigations and disputes.

SPEAKERS



Kylie Harrison, Inland Revenue, Hamilton

Kylie is a GST technical specialist at Inland Revenue. She has over 20 years experience working in New Zealand tax, including more than 7 years specialising in GST. Her role includes working through the technical and practical elements of GST compliance with micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and significant enterprise customers as well as with internal and external agencies and stakeholders.



Jayshree Khushal, Inland Revenue, Auckland

Jayshree is a chartered accountant and technical specialist with over two decades of experience and has established herself as a subject matter expert, having worked in both New Zealand and the United Kingdom for Inland Revenue and Serious Fraud Office. Her specialist areas include GST and property tax. Throughout her career, Jayshree has held leadership and tax technical roles within the organisation, actively involved in enforcing tax legislation and driving improvements in customer compliance.



Mathew McKay, Bell Gully, Auckland

Mathew is a specialist in tax disputes and litigation. He represents clients during the Inland Revenue audit and dispute resolution phases and in court proceedings at all levels. Mathew advises on all aspects of New Zealand tax law, including tax avoidance matters, the capital/revenue distinction, tax issues affecting mergers and acquisitions, capital restructuring, financing arrangements and cross-border transactions.



Sybrand van Schalkwyk, SVS Tax, Tauranga

Sybrand founded SVS Tax on 1 September 2023 and has significant experience in tax with the IRD, national accounting firms and local law firms. More recently he has been advising group builders, Māori authorities, privately owned retirement village developers, and Bay of Plenty law and accounting firms on the now very complex issues surrounding the taxation of land.



Graeme Smail, Greenwood Roche, Wellington

Graeme specialises in taxation and commercial law advice and documentation, in a broad range of industry and private investment areas. He regularly acts for New Zealand private and public sector entities and overseas investors in relation to their New Zealand commercial transactions, including acquisitions and dispositions, securities issues, joint ventures, investment structuring and Treaty settlement situations. Graeme has also had extensive experience in legislative drafting.



Barry Walker, Greenwood Roche, Auckland

Barry has specialist expertise in a wide range of construction and engineering, infrastructure and real estate development matters. He has experience acting for owners, contractors, consultants and tenants in respect of major developments in New Zealand and internationally and across a variety of project structures and delivery models.

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