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The counsel focused on your local council



BELINDA WILLIS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ADELAIDE has its first law firm devoted solely to working with local councils and not-for-profit organisations.

KelleyJones Lawyers officially came into being earlier this month after Michael Kelledy and Natasha Jones joined forces last year to break away from the traditional in-house specialist approach of catering for the sector.

Their new firm already represents most of the state's 68 councils. Ms Jones and Mr Kelledy believed establishing a firm solely dedicated to local government eliminated its own "perceived" conflicting interests for clients.

"It doesn't bode well for clients' interests if you are looking after them one day and then you or a colleague pop up another day and act for another party against them," said Mr Kelledy, who was listed in the sixth edition of Best Lawyers Australia. "If you or one of your partners is acting against them, there could be at least a perception that what you know about them is used contrary to their interest."

Both Mr Kelledy and Ms Jones are former partners of Wallmans, and now have eight staff in their Gilles St office and are actively recruiting. The



BREAK FROM TRADITION: Michael Kelledy and Natasha Jones started a new Adelaide law firm specialising in local government and not-for-profit groups. They now have eight staff in their Gilles St office and are looking for more.

Sought after as speakers

firm's creation is timely with the expected release in September of controversial new draft local government Mandatory Codes of Conduct for elected members and staff.

Mr Kelledy said the firm had already adopted the spirit of the codes and had been working with councils to relay their content, including an aim to end client entertainment

and gift budgets. The new rules are expected to be implemented with the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption Act and would affect every supplier, service provider or contractor to a council.

Ms Jones specialises in advising councils, related entities, statutory authorities and non-profit organisations. The two have also been sought after as

speakers and have presented to the national local government chief executive officers' leadership group on the topic of emotional intelligence.

"It's a side interest," Mr Kelledy said. He added: "A lot of what we do means that we need to be able to read people, to be able to communicate strategies, and read body language."

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MICHAEL KELLEDY

Altona Energy adds methanol to mix at Arckaringa

ALTONA Energy has put methanol in the mix as it progresses plans to establish a coal-to-liquids operation in the state's far north.

The London-based, SA-focused entity is partnering with China National Offshore Oil Corporation to develop coal resources at Arckaringa for the production of fuels such as diesel, as well as producing power.

A \$40 million bankable feasibility study is underway to develop a flagship \$3 billion-\$4 billion, 30,000 barrel per day coal-to-liquids (CTL) project.

Altona has released the results of a new technical feasibility study for a coal-to-methanol (CTM) alongside the proposed CTL plant.

The original CTL proposal was for a 45,000 barrels per day (BPD) CTL facility in three separate 15,000 BPD/280MW phases over a 10-year period.

The CTM study proposes a 6,200 Methanol tonne per day (MTPD) CTM plant and a 15,000 BDP CTL plant.

"Altona considers that projected lower growth in power demand on the South Australia-

There is opportunity to enhance the inherently low in situ value and cost of Arckaringa coal beyond CTL and power

ALTONA ENERGY MD CHRIS SCHRAPE

lian grid and a resultant likely delay in the construction and funding of new power transmission lines, including a high voltage line to connect the Arckaringa Project, could obviate the proposal to export excess power generated from the

Phase 2 30,000 BPD CTL facility in the short to medium term," the technical study said.

"A CTM plant was identified by Altona Plc as an option which could overcome this restriction whilst introducing economic benefits overall."

Managing director Chris Schrape said the group was looking at alternative set-ups, which catered to methanol demand from Asia and the South Australian demand for liquid fuels.

"The combined capital outlay is the same as what we proposed initially. It's just another way of looking at the project."

Altona's in-house study estimates a CTL/CTM plant would potentially increase annual project revenue significantly, when compared to a CTL-only plant, by approxi-

mately US\$212 million, or 18 per cent.

He said there was continued growth in global methanol demand, notably in Asia, as a fuel additive and feedstock. "There is opportunity to enhance the low in situ value and cost of Arckaringa coal beyond CTL and power."

Altona will now present the CTM project to partner CNOOC for further evaluation.

Test drilling and analysis program at Arckaringa is likely to begin in October.