

MEDIA RELEASE

23 June 2011

Adding a new dimension: micro-economics and economic regulation expert, James Reynolds, joins Marchment Hill Consulting

James Reynolds joins Marchment Hill Consulting (MHC) as Economics and Regulation Practice Leader.

A natural synergy between James's personal experiences and MHC's depth in infrastructure industries motivated him to join the firm: "The utility services and infrastructure assets that need to be built in Australia, along with significant regulatory and market change, provides a diverse set of multi-faceted issues and challenges that MHC is well placed to play a role in. And for me, that has been a real motivation."

For Founder and Managing Principal, Neil Gibbs: "The 18 years' industry experience James brings, including 13 years' working on micro-economic issues and economic regulation of utilities and infrastructure businesses and assets, will be invaluable."

The personal experience James has spans a spectrum of participants – as public policy maker, as an economic and licence regulator, as an industry participant and asset owner and operator, and as a consultant and advisor to the utilities and infrastructure sector. James states: "Perspective is important as it allows the exploration of different approaches to solving the challenges that utilities and infrastructure participants face."

James adds: "A significant priority is managing the carbon pricing labyrinth, and thinking through how renewable energy can meaningfully contribute to our modern economic production processes. The response will eventually lie somewhere between the current behavioural and economic regulatory approaches – and the challenge will be to get there."

Australia's utility and infrastructure needs over the next 10 to 20 years are significant. James explains: "We're responding to the Asia decade, which will be either supercharged by the stronger emergence of India as a trading partner; or the next decade will become one dominated by trade with India and the sub-continent. Australia's iron ore, coal, and mineral resources will continue to be demanded by these countries – and the new infrastructure requirements for ports, airports, railways, electricity networks, electricity generation, gas networks, and water and waste water networks to supply this demand will be substantial. Being with MHC and being able to advise utility and infrastructure businesses as they meet this challenge, is exciting."

Regulation – types of and its form as applied to utility and infrastructure businesses – continues to evolve. James comments: “Economic regulation continues to be augmented and replaced by more prescriptive behavioural forms, which are having different affects on businesses’ incentives, and the outcomes being achieved in terms of efficiency and economic gains to society. Having worked through the current evolution of regulation, it will be fantastic to be with MHC as the next round of change in the form and types of regulation occurs.”

James is looking forward to bringing his extensive experience to MHC “to provide prospective utility and infrastructure clients with an additional source of support and advice on the key micro-economic and regulatory challenges that they face”.

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See also:

<http://www.marchmenthill.com/practices.html>

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