

## Lawyer of the Year

Thank you for the recognition as the Lawyer of the Year in the ALGA *2019 Annual Industry Excellence Awards*. I greatly appreciate the nomination and selection for this award. I acknowledge the past winners of this award, Elizabeth Wild (a former mentor) and Claire Smith, both of whom I recognise as leaders in environmental law.

My nomination and selection for this award arises not from a particular project, but from my professional involvement in the field of environmental law (particularly as it relates to pollution, waste and contamination) and the projects and matters I have been able to work on with my clients over the past 20 years. Over the past decade, I have been active in advising and writing on the issues and challenges with the Victorian environment protection and contaminated land regime, which recently culminated in the new *Environment Protection Act* commencing next year. I wish to particularly acknowledge the tireless work of Dru Marsh of EPA (and ALGA Board member) for his role in delivering these reforms through to July next year.

I couldn't do any of the work I do and receive this recognition without my clients and my partners and my talented team at King & Wood Mallesons. I would particularly like to thank my long-standing clients (some of whom are here tonight) for giving me the opportunity to work on such interesting, complex and challenging matters. I thrive on working in collaborative teams with technical experts and have enjoyed making strong connections with members of the consulting firms, auditors and other ALGA members. It has been a pleasure over years to participate in, host and support ALGA functions at KWM and my former law firm, and to attend and participate in the EcoForum and Clean Up conferences. Finally, thank you to my parents who encouraged me into the law, and to my wife (Tali) and children (Rupert, Thomas, Emmaline and Clara) for their ongoing support and patience, in what is often a very time consuming and demanding career.