

Award recognises culture of environmental awareness

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This year's supreme award for environmental achievement in New Zealand's construction industry has gone to the Northern Gateway Alliance – a consortium within which Boffa Miskell is responsible for environmental management.

The Alliance, comprising Transit New Zealand, Fulton Hogan, Leighton Contractors, URS New Zealand, Tonkin Taylor and Boffa Miskell, is responsible for project management, design and construction of the ALPURT B2 Northern Motorway extension in Auckland.

The motorway project earned the supreme award in the Shell Environmental Awards category for projects valued over \$10 million in the 2007 New Zealand Contractors Federation awards.

The judges particularly acknowledged the culture of environmental awareness and performance that the Alliance has achieved.

Boffa Miskell is responsible for the environmental management services within the Alliance - a challenging job, considering that the route traverses ecologically significant and environmentally sensitive areas.

With 3.5 million cubic metres of earth to be moved, erosion and sedimentation management is a massive task, and numerous streams, wetlands and estuaries need protection from damage and pollution. Measures to protect wildlife include relocation of lizards, the construction of specially designed culverts for fish passage, and the avoidance of bird nesting habitat. Then there's the revegetation required to rehabilitate highly modified and engineered soils.

"Good communication has been essential to maintaining rigorous standards," says Boffa Miskell Environment Manager, Michael Cassidy. "We work closely with the engineering and construction teams to alleviate possible adverse effects and minimise bush clearance and land disturbance. Everyone has to understand why the environmental standards are important.

"It's a matter of developing a culture of environmental awareness that extends from high level documentation and auditing procedures right through to the physical implementation of works in the field."

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