



# Environment Court decision on Banks Peninsula Landscapes

8 May 2008

**The Environment Court has ruled in favour of the expert evidence presented by Boffa Miskell and concluded that Boffa Miskell's study "is the most comprehensive approach to a district landscape undertaken in New Zealand to date".**

Boffa Miskell landscape planners Allan Rackham and Yvonne Pfluger, and planner Nicola Rykers, acted as expert witnesses for the Christchurch City Council in relation to appeals lodged against proposed landscape provisions in the Christchurch District Plan. Their evidence was based upon the Banks Peninsula Landscape Study 2007, which Boffa Miskell had prepared for the council following years of controversy over landscape management issues on the peninsula. The Boffa Miskell study team brought together expertise in landscape assessment and planning, statutory planning, consultation, mediated negotiation and GIS mapping and analysis techniques.

The Court considered that Boffa Miskell had approached the landscape study "in entirely the right order" through three phases: (1) objectively assessing and describing the peninsula's landscapes, (2) exercising judgement in deciding the appropriate categories and areas of landscape, and (3) considering methods and rules to address the landscape categories.

*"We consider that the landscape approach adopted is robust and repeatable. While acknowledging that subjective judgements must be made, it has sought in the first instance to obtain the maximum amount of objective information and has canvassed available sources in preparing that information"*

The Court further noted that, to their and other witnesses' knowledge, this was the first time the approach had been taken in New Zealand and particularly mentioned the innovative tools used, including the GIS overlay mapping system and K2Vi 3D modeling software that Boffa Miskell had used to record and analyse the numerous layers of landscape information.

*"We cannot leave this issue without stating our conclusion that this is the most comprehensive analysis of landscape issues this Court has been faced with to date."*

Find out more:

- Project profile: <http://www.boffamiskell.co.nz/projects/banks-peninsula.php>
- Boffa Miskell News, Issue 17, page 3: <http://www.boffamiskell.co.nz/news/newsletters.php>

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### AUCKLAND

Ph: +64 (09) 358 2526

### TAURANGA

Ph: +64 (07) 571 5511

### WELLINGTON

Ph: +64 (04) 385 9315

### CHRISTCHURCH

Ph: +64 (03) 366 8891