



Boffa Miskell

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News Item

Boffa Miskell Shares Top Planning Practice Awards with Council Clients

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environments
that are
all that
they can
be

Two Boffa Miskell-led projects, the *Wairarapa Combined District Plan* and the *Christchurch Central City Residential Capacity Study*, respectively won the Nancy Northcroft Planning Practice Award and a planning practice 'Highly Commended' recognition in the New Zealand Planning Institute's 2010 awards.

Boffa Miskell shared the awards with its council clients, the Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa District Councils and the Christchurch City Council.

The Nancy Northcroft Award is the Institute's highest award for excellence in planning practice and recognises "outstanding creativity and innovation".

Sarah Dawson, Boffa Miskell Director::Planning says Boffa Miskell is proud to have received both the top award and a high commendation in the planning practice category.

"We actively foster innovative thinking in our planning work so we can respond specifically to our clients' needs. Innovation comes partly from our own mix of skills in a range of disciplines but it also derives from the collaborative relationships we have with our clients. In both projects, our clients set challenging briefs and were willing to try new approaches and work together towards solutions."

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The Wairarapa Combined District Plan

Boffa Miskell was engaged in 2004 to assist the Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa District Councils to prepare a single resource management framework for the three districts, which had previously had separate district plans. The three councils wished to achieve more consistent planning outcomes across their combined sub-region, where there were many similar or common planning issues as well as cross-boundary issues. The Proposed Wairarapa Combined District Plan was publicly notified in 2006 and all but those provisions subject to one outstanding appeal are operative.

The judges said the combined plan “demonstrates an outstanding achievement by the Masterton, Carterton and South Wairarapa District Councils in effectively working together to prepare a single planning document to provide an integrated management framework.”

They noted the collaborative approach that had been taken in engaging with the public in the plan-making process and said the project demonstrated “how collaboration can work in local government if there is strong local support, joint political leadership, trust, and open-minded decision-making”.

Find out more about the Wairarapa Combined District Plan:

- Project profile:
<http://www.boffamiskell.co.nz/projects/combined-wairarapa-district-plan.php>
- Contact: Robert Schofield (04) 385 5792



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Christchurch Central City Residential Capacity Study

The Christchurch City Council asked Boffa Miskell to assist in better understanding and visualising the implications of district plan rules, particularly in relation to urban intensification policies. Boffa Miskell developed a computer model that identifies maximum theoretical residential capacity, residential development probabilities and residential capacity in Christchurch's central city. Using GIS, a 3D spatial model was developed which enabled planners and urban designers to test assumptions and to visualise the results by feeding in data for different scenarios. The Christchurch City Council is using the model for a range of applications including developing new planning rules and better informing discussion about long-term development needs.

The judges said that the study "demonstrates a unique, creative and innovative tool, assisting to provide for better planning processes and the promotion of sustainable management and effective urban design."

Find out more about Christchurch Central City Residential Capacity Study:

- Boffa Miskell News, Issue 20, p.4:
<http://www.boffamiskell.co.nz/news/downloads/Boffa-Miskell-Newsletter-20.pdf>
- Contact: Stephanie Styles (03) 364 4215



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