

NZPI MEDIA RELEASE

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Auckland Council joins NZPI Conference as Regional Host City Partner

- ***New sponsors announced***
- ***NZPI Awards 2015 nominations open***
- ***Early bird registration now available***

Auckland Council will be the official NZPI Conference Regional Host City Partner in 2015, underlining the significance of the conference for the city and the council's role as the largest planning body in Australasia.

"We are thrilled that Auckland Council will be joining us to celebrate and advance the planning profession," NZPI CEO Susan Houston says.

"As the largest local authority in Australasia, Auckland Council has the biggest professional planning team. The council's role as Regional Host City Partner demonstrates its strong commitment to the New Zealand Planning Institute and its support for the mentoring and continuing professional development of its own employees."

Auckland Council Manager Regional and Local Planning Penny Pirrit says this is a really exciting time in Auckland's history and a challenging and stimulating time to be a planner in Auckland.

"In Auckland's journey to become the world's most liveable city innovative and forward thinking planning is essential. As host city, Auckland Council is keen to be part of the stimulating ideas and discussion the conference will generate; and is also keen to showcase the great things that are happening here."

Auckland Council is currently progressing the largest statutory planning project ever undertaken in New Zealand, the Auckland Unitary Plan. It is also delivering innovative housing developments with the implementation of Special Housing Areas, together with significant resource consenting projects. Conference attendees will have significant opportunities to learn more about these exciting developments and other Auckland Council initiatives.

New sponsors announced

Interest in the 2015 conference 'Back to the Future' continues to grow with five new sponsors announced in the past week. Harrison Grierson has signed up as the Platinum Sponsor for the Young Planners Congress and will sponsor and host the Business Lounge. The Business Lounge is a new

initiative for 2015 and will be a place for attendees to relax, network or check up on emails during the conference.

New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA) has signed up as a Silver Sponsor with Align and Boffa Miskell both becoming Bronze Sponsors. Boffa Miskell will also sponsor lunch and end of day drinks on the conference's second day. Planz has signed up as one of the conference's Corporate Supporters.

"We are very excited and delighted to have all five companies as part of what we expect to be the biggest planning conference in our history," Ms Houston says.

They join previously announced sponsors Barker & Associates, MWH Global, Market Economics and Styles Group.

Nominations for the 2015 NZPI Awards open

Nominations for the 2015 NZPI Awards are now open. The Awards will be announced during the 2015 conference with the Best Practice Awards, Institute Gold Medal (premier individual award) and the Nancy Northcroft Supreme Planning Practice Award announced in glittering style at the Gala Awards Dinner on Friday 17th April 2015.

The Gala Awards Dinner, sponsored by Barker and Associates, is the final event of the 2015 conference week and will be held at the Viaduct Events Centre in Wynyard Quarter.

Conference website and early registration goes live

Conference attendees and interested parties can now check out further conference details on a new dedicated conference website www.nzpiconference2015.org.nz

The website is a one stop shop of information about #B2Future. Registrations are now open on the website for all conference attendees with savings to be made through early bird registration.

Ends.

For further information please contact Simon Roche, Senior Account Director, Wright Communications, 0272 692 876 or simon@wrightcommunications.co.nz.

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