



## Best Practice Award : District and Regional Planning

### Recipients: Nelson City Council and Incite Planning Consultants

#### For: Port Nelson Noise Project

The adoption of the Port of Nelson Noise Variation in 2011 was the culmination of 10 years of work by Nelson City, in conjunction with Incite planning consultants, to develop a new way to manage noise from port operations.

It was recognised that noise from the Port needed a new approach which addressed the busy nature of the Port and its need to keep operating twenty four hours, and also provide an environment where the nearby residents could expect to sleep at night.

The Port Noise Variation departs from the traditional method of 'noise at boundary controls' and instead places incentives for the Port operator to actively reduce its noise through a Port Noise Management Plan, and for it to also mitigate the noise effects by having to insulate, and in some cases purchase, the most affected residential properties.

A key success of the project was the process which encouraged active participation by the key players. The Port operator was proactive in developing an initial draft Variation, and it has since been actively reducing noise and insulating the houses most affected. The residents are part of a Port Noise Liaison Committee which plays an important role in day-to-day port operations. Working together, outside of the traditional rules and enforcement model for managing noise, the parties have been able to reduce noise from the Port and provide a higher level of residential amenity in what is a potentially volatile mix of uses.

The Awards Panel commends the Nelson Port Noise Project for developing and implementing an incentive based approach addressing the needs of a significant infrastructure asset whilst also maintaining the amenity of nearby residents. The Panel considered the project to be an excellent example of how meaningful consultation and engagement can lead to a far greater level of buy-in and goodwill than through a contested process.

The New Zealand Planning Institute Best Practice Award may be made annually in five categories. The District / Regional planning Award category will be made to any individual, organisation, group, or body who/which has amongst its number a member of the New Zealand Planning Institute, and will recognise outstanding creativity, innovation, and service.

