

PRINCIPAL PLANNER

- Rare and Unique opportunity to be involved with all elements of a unitary plan
- Technical Planning Lead for a “Smart Little City”, with opportunity to mentor other professionals
- Greater flexibility for work/life balance within exceptional lifestyle environment

Nelson is a thriving city set within a diverse region with a gorgeous natural environment, amazing weather and easy access to beautiful natural resources which provide a wonderful backdrop for businesses and communities in which to live, work and play. As this beautiful city and region continue to grow, there is a constant vibe generated by a buoyant economy, exciting future development, a wealth of arts, cultural, sporting and hospitality activities and the tourism gateway to numerous regional attractions.

At the heart of the region, Nelson City Council is a Unitary Authority responsible for providing key infrastructure, community facilities and services, economic development and a range of regulatory functions including for land use and resource management. Nelson City Council is always striving to deliver an even better service and a sustainable regional future for its vibrant community. There has been significant growth in the region and with this, we require a Principal Planner.

This is a unique opportunity to be the technical planning lead for the development and writing of the Nelson Plan – unique in the respect you get to be the custodian of the ‘whole’ plan. Reporting to an empowering Team Leader of Planning, you will be responsible for the provision of expert policy analysis and strategic advice on environmental, community and strategic planning in relation to the Council’s obligations under the RMA.

The Nelson Plan is a unique integrated second-generation resource management plan, underpinned by a programme of activities that is endorsed by the Council and covers a full spectrum of resource management issues. If you are seeking a technical lead position with diversity in RMA activities including topics such as air quality, tangata whenua iwi, biodiversity, landscape, growth and development, hazards, coastal, freshwater and open space – this is the career step you are looking for!

You will provide advice as the ‘subject matter specialist’ for planning and RMA matters and ensure the Nelson Plan is fully integrated and fit for purpose. Therefore, it is essential that you can demonstrate your depth and breadth of technical expertise and experience in planning which must include the writing and - ideally some experience or ready to step up to - integration of either a regional/district/unitary plan.

Your strong technical expertise will be enhanced by your project management skills. You will have advanced knowledge and application of the various legislative frameworks that are critical such as the RMA, and experience in the preparation and presentation of expert witness evidence to a wide range of forums, including engagement and consultation with the community and elected Members.

An expert understanding of planning, frameworks, and practice in New Zealand is essential, along with exceptional interpersonal communication skills, strong stakeholder engagement, and relationship management skills, underpinned by excellent time management, with sound judgment and problem-solving abilities. Essential is a tertiary qualification in resource management, planning or policy analysis or similar, and continued professional development such as professional NZPI membership would be advantageous.

This is a challenging role to suit a Professional Planner that is already operating at this level within Consultancy (looking to return to a Client-Side role), or a Senior Manager (looking to return to a hands-on technical lead role without staff management responsibilities), or for an experienced Senior Planner (ready to step up to a technical lead or wanting a broader focused role), who possesses the mix of technical, leadership and relationship management essential in this role.

In return, Nelson City Council offers an enjoyable, rewarding and flexible working environment and this role provides a career step with depth and diversity.

To register your interest in this superb opportunity, please submit your details in absolute confidence via our registration process attaching both an up-to-date CV and cover letter (in Word please). Alternatively, for a confidential conversation, you can contact Amanda Scott, Consulting Director at talentnow! on 021784483 or email amanda.scott@talentnow.co.nz

Applications close midnight on Monday 9th September 2019.