
Christina Robertson

NZPI[®] Distinguished Service Award

5th November 2019

Christina has had a long and distinguished planning career in public service spanning over the last 24 years where she has established herself as one of the leading members of the planning profession in the Auckland region. As part of this she has been involved in a wide range of complex planning issues through the Auckland region, latterly with Auckland Transport ensuring through a range of management roles the successful integration of complex land use issues with transport, including public transport and active travel. Christina has championed the role of planners and planning in the transport context and has shown the value of the two being interlinked. She has also assisted and mentored a large number of young planners establishing planning careers.

Beginning with her academic studies at the University of Auckland where she received first class honours and was awarded the Senior Planner Award. Her first role was at then Auckland City Council working in the consent department providing planning advice to members of the public, then moving into policy formation with the Council working on plan changes to Auckland City' Isthmus and HGI District Plans, where she gained significant praise for her work, including from a number of the City's elected representatives. Following a period in Auckland City's Open Space as Open Space Planner she started on the long and successful career dealing with complex and sometimes difficult issues of integrating land use and transport beginning as Senior Growth Planner with Auckland City Council.

Following amalgamation, Christina started on her management career as a Team Leader for Transport Land Use integration with Auckland Transport, where she has worked ever since. She is now in a senior management position (Group Manager) reporting to the CEO leading Auckland Transport's strategic and land use policy approaches and implementation for Auckland. In this role she has had a significant influence in seeking and shaping a more sustainable urban form for the City and the region as a whole. She has held this position for the last two years, where she created and developed a range of strong relationships with both internal and external stakeholders dealing with these complex issues where she has also been widely recognised for her strong and effective leadership skills.

Christina has significantly contributed to the affairs of the Institute, both as a professional and active member of the profession as discussed above, but also with the Auckland Branch, where she has been a very active member since 2012. She has been the Branch Secretary (co-shared with Hannah Thomson) for the last 5 years taking the minutes and organising the meeting and taking an active role in coordinating and the arranging events for the Branch, which are the life blood of the financial position of the Branch. Christina has been an integral part of the Committee working tirelessly behind the scenes for the last five years being active in assisting with continuing professional development and advancing local issues. The Auckland branch committee and the various chairpersons have depended on the knowledge of the branch processes and her organising skills to enable the Auckland members to be well served with a wide diversity of events. It's members like Christina that are key to the success of NZPI.