
Ken Gimblett

NZPI[®] Distinguished Service Award

8th November 2019

Ken Gimblett graduated with a planning degree from Massey University in 1987. After gaining experience in the United Kingdom he joined the Christchurch City Council before moving to Boffa Miskell in 1998, where he is now a Partner and member of the Board.

Not only has Ken's career spanned a broad range of roles, he has made an outstanding contribution to the planning profession through his tireless dedication to effective leadership and team building. His experience has included significant projects that have generated high levels of public and legal scrutiny and the provision of advice to government departments and agencies. For example, Ken's work was instrumental in helping to shape the planning framework for the recovery and regeneration processes following the Christchurch earthquakes. He also contributed to the development of the National Planning Standards as part of a practitioner group that provided reviews and input into the drafting of the standards.

Ken has promoted both the image and practice of planning through his role in the training of future commissioners under the "Making Good Decisions" Commissioner Training programme, sitting on panels for full membership interviews, and his mentorship of emerging planners. He is willing and able to explain his thinking and decision-making processes; listen to a range of viewpoints; build experience in others; and take the time to work through issues and seek resolution. Ken's advice and guidance is relied upon by other practitioners, advisors, lawyers and clients for its accuracy, pragmatism, and appropriateness to the task at hand.

Beyond his high-quality skills and technical competence, Ken is remarkably personable, engaging, humorous and positive. His friendly and open manner together with his sharp knowledge of planning has earned him the respect of other professionals and becoming highly respected as a leading planner both within and outside the profession. His high personal standards and professionalism reflect the planning profession in a positive light to the wider community and is certainly worthy of recognition by his peers as a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.