

Vanessa Wilkinson

BA, MPlanPrac, MNZPI (Int)



Senior Consultant

Vanessa is a Senior Consultant with Hill Young Cooper Ltd, a strategic resource management and environmental policy and planning consultancy. Vanessa has over 18 years planning experience in local government as well as the private sector; she holds qualifications in geography and planning from the University of Auckland.

Vanessa has experience in policy development, the preparation and processing of resource consents, and managing resource consent appeals. She directs efforts to achieve effective and timely deliverables, and is able to build strong relationships to achieve goals.

Prior to joining Hill Young Cooper, Vanessa worked at Auckland Council as a Principal Specialist Planner in the Resource Consents Department. Vanessa's role included providing technical advice and training on the Unitary Plan, the Resource Management Act and other legislation and management and resolution of planning appeals.

Vanessa also assisted the Auckland Unitary Plan Independent Hearings Panel with the preparation of final recommendations on the Auckland Unitary Plan including, providing the panel with resource consent and best practice expertise. She assisted with the development of hearing procedures, including mediation and other resolution processes, and she helped lead hearing topics through the Unitary Plan hearing process within a very tight timeframe.

Vanessa has experience in the preparation of small to large scale residential and commercial planning / resource consent applications in New Zealand and Melbourne, Australia. She has provided planning / resource management advice and managed a range of projects through local government and court processes to deliver successful outcomes.

As a result of her previous roles at Auckland Council, Vanessa has an excellent understanding of the Resource Management Act and the statutory requirements for resource consents and plans. She has considerable experience in establishing processes and procedures to deal with legislation, organisational and other changes.

Vanessa is also skilled in creating and providing training on legislation and plan changes and their requirements.



Specialist Capabilities

- Resource consents
- District planning
- Policy analysis
- Policy development

Professional Experience

- Senior Consultant, Hill Young Cooper: 2018 - present
- Principal Specialist Planner, Auckland Council: 2017 - 2018
- Principal Specialist Planner, Auckland Unitary Plan Independent Hearings Panel: 2014 - 2016
- Principal Planner, Practice and Training, Auckland Council: 2012 - 2014
- Principal Planner, Resolutions, Auckland Council: 2010 -2012
- Team Leader, Resource Consents, Auckland City Council: 2009 – 2010
- Senior Planner, Davis Ogilvie and Partners: 2008 – 2009
- Associate and Senior Planner, SJB Planning, Melbourne, Australia: 2004 – 2008
- Planner, London Borough of Southwark and London Borough of Hounslow (UK): 2001 – 2003