

6. NEW ZEALAND PLANNING INSTITUTE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD – JOHN DRYDEN



The Chairman advised that the Council's Environmental Policy and Planning Manager, John Dryden, had been awarded the prestigious Distinguished Service Award by the New Zealand Planning Institute. The award recognises the special contribution John has made to planning practice, and the profession generally, over the past 30 years. He is one of only three planners to receive the award this year.

John began his career as a surveyor with the Lands and Survey Department and completed his Dip TP at Auckland in 1969. He spent two years in surveying before joining the Ministry of Works and Development head office, Wellington, in 1972.

As a surveyor John designed numerous residential subdivisions including developments at Hanmer, Tekapo Village, Turangi and Wellington.

John became a full member of the NZPI in 1973, the same year that he joined the private consultant firm Royds Sutherland McLeay in Christchurch as a town planner. His clients included several local authorities around Canterbury and the West Coast. John was held in extremely high regard by these local authorities. They commented on his prompt, efficient service and his clear way of presenting information – free of town planning jargon.

In 1975 John started with the Christchurch City Council as senior planner, and became Deputy City Planner in 1978. He held that position until 1985 when he took over the role of City Planner. Since local government amalgamation in 1989 he has been Unit Manager, Environmental Policy and Planning. He has had key management roles in the preparation of two award winning planning documents: Christchurch City District Scheme, Second Review (operative 1986); and the Christchurch City District Plan (publicly notified 1995).

John has long been a staunch supporter of planning and urban design, particularly during the 1990s when the profession was under threat from 'resource managers'. Moreover, he has been a very loyal supporter of the Planning Institute and the planning profession generally.

He has made a huge contribution to many of Christchurch's successful planning projects during the 1980s and 1990s through the way he managed, firstly the Council's Forward Planning section and, more recently, the Environmental Policy and Planning Unit. Urban renewal, central city improvements and urban amenity are three areas where John has had a major influence in Christchurch's environment.

John is highly respected by his professional colleagues and elected representatives. Not only is he an extremely competent professional planner with a vast experience in planning issues, particularly in Christchurch, he is passionate about his profession and about Christchurch's environment - he cares.

It is this combination of personal qualities, professional competence and experience and commitment which sets John apart as deserving the highest level of recognition from his professional peers within New Zealand.

The Committee **received** the Chairman's report, and decided to acknowledge the very special significance of this award, not only to John but also to the city, to extend its congratulations to John for the work he has done to achieve this prestigious award and acknowledge the high regard in which he is held by his peers.