

# NZPI FELLOW MEMBERSHIP

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## Graeme McCarrison

AWARDED ON 22 MARCH 2024

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Graeme is a passionate planner who has freely offered his time in the development of the profession, including as Chair of the NZPI Auckland Branch Committee for three years from 2012 – 2015. In this role, Graeme tirelessly provided his time and expertise at both the national and branch level, making a significant contribution to the establishment of the national Planning Advisory Committee in the new NZPI governance structure. Graeme was awarded a DSA in March 2016.

Graeme made a significant contribution to the NZPI Board, being elected in 2018 and 2021. Regrettably Graeme had to resign from the Board in 2022 due to health issues. During his time on the Board, Graeme spearheaded the creation of the PlanTechNZ special interest group, which reinforces his forward-thinking perspective on life. He undertook a roadshow on legislative reform following the release of the 'Randerson report', meeting with most NZPI branches from over a period of 2 short weeks. Graeme also led the discussion within the Board, and the wider planning profession with respect to the mental health of those working within the industry, including during the Covid 19 pandemic. His honesty in sharing his experiences with others speaks to Graeme's authentic communication style.

Since stepping down Graeme has continued to be an active and valued contributor to the NZPI RM Advisory Group and is one of two non-Board appointed members following the recent restructure of the Advisory Group.

Graeme graduated from Massey University in 1983 with Bachelor Regional Planning (Honours) degree and became a Full member of the New Zealand Planning Institute in 1990. He has over 30 years' experience with his early career including working as a planner in city councils in the Auckland region and within the private sector. Graeme has held senior roles in both Waikatore and Auckland City Council's, and was appointed as the Transition Advisor – Resource Consents Auckland Council assisting Council transition regulatory services into a single Unitary Council framework.

Graeme's focus in more recent years has been within the telecommunications sector and he is currently the Engagement and Planning Manager at Spark New Zealand. Through this and his previous roles as the Environmental Compliance and Planning Manager at Spark, and

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Environmental Planning Manager at Chorus, he has provided strategic and technical guidance to support the development and expansion of the telecommunications industry in New Zealand. He was part of the NZ Utilities Advisory Group technical group that developed the guideline to the National Code of Practice for Utility Operators' Access to Transport Corridors and is also a member of the technical reference group for the MBIE/MfE review of the National Environmental Standard for Telecommunications facilities.

Graeme has provided expert evidence on a number of plan changes on behalf of telecommunications organisations, including National and Regional Policy Statements, such as the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and National Environmental Standards.

Graeme champions a collaborative approach to planning, working alongside legal and business leads within the telecommunications industry to improve the way infrastructure is developed. He has successfully brought Mana Whenua together to collaboratively address the efficient and effective provision of utility services. He has previously led the Auckland Utility Operators Group, a group representing all utility operators within the region. Recently, Graeme led a combined approach from network utilities in submissions to the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan. More recently he has been working with on the infrastructure standards of the National Planning Framework

Graeme has been a huge advocate for the need for diversity in thinking and perspectives in planning and for planners to respect and value the contributions those who 'think differently' bring to the table.

Graeme's contribution to the planning profession in Aotearoa exceeds the criteria to become a Fellow of NZPI.