



## Melissa McGrath

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### Senior Associate

BA; MRP; MNZPI

Melissa has 18 years of experience in resource management planning, with a Masters in Resource Management. Melissa has worked for local authorities throughout the Northland Region, preparing changes to various district plans. During her time at Whangārei District Council as District Plan Manager, Melissa led the rolling review of the District Plan, Melissa has worked internationally with Pacific Aid undertaking policy work in Vanuatu. Melissa previously worked in private consultancy undertaking consenting and policy work throughout New Zealand. Melissa has a range of planning experience in consenting, policy development, consultation and public engagement.

### Projects / Key Experience

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**Policy:** Managing District Plan Review, leading council hearing and appeal management. Preparation of Private and District Plan Changes including section 32 evaluation, 42A Reporting, attendance at hearings and preparation of written right of reply and Environment Court Mediation and Expert Witness. Managing and working alongside technical consultants. Community / Stakeholder engagement including presentations on marae and Council workshops.

**Particular Projects:** Leading Whangārei District Plan Rolling Review, managing topics such as three waters infrastructure, transport including review of Council Engineering Standards. Reporting planner for network utilities plan change in particular implementing the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission and National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities. Preparation of Whangārei Growth Strategy 30/50. Preparation of Draft Port Vila City Plan (Vanuatu).

**Resource Consents:** Reporting on a number of land use and subdivision consents throughout New Zealand addressing a wide range of environmental, economic, social and cultural issues. Presenting evidence at resource consent hearings on behalf of Council as reporting planner, submitters and applicants at resource consent hearings. Preparing resource consent and notice of requirement applications on behalf of network utility operators.

**Non-statutory work:** Preparation of submissions on District Plans, Central Government legislation and policy documents. Preparation and management of non-statutory documents to assist Māori Land owners develop papakāinga on their ancestral lands.

### Expertise

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- Strategic policy
- District Plan changes, private and public
- Resource consent processing, application preparation and management
- Public consultation

### Affiliations

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- Full Member of the New Zealand Planning Institute