



Amy Callaghan

Technical Director - Planning

Location

Christchurch

Experience

23 years

Qualifications/Accreditations

- Bachelor of Resource and Environmental Planning, 2001 (Hons)

Key technical skills

- Leadership of resource planning/consenting teams for a variety of infrastructure projects
- Providing advice on legislative reform and its impacts on business
- Preparing resource consent applications and environmental scoping reports
- Assessments of Effects on the Environment
- FastTrack applications including Referrals and Substantive Applications
- Evidence and submissions to resource consent hearings

Memberships

- New Zealand Planning Institute

Relevant experience summary

Amy's experience is in preparing environmental scoping reports, resource consent applications and 'Assessments of Effects on the Environment', for regional and district council requirements; and preparing evidence and submissions to resource consent hearings and the Environment Court. She is currently the lead planner for an application under the FastTrack Approvals Act for Meridian Energy. The Referral has been accepted and the substantive application is expected to be lodged imminently. Amy has also been the lead planner on New Zealand Aluminium Smelter consenting projects and provides strategic advice regarding effective management of the impacts of Resource Management reform.

Amy has been involved in other key infrastructure projects including wastewater and water supply business cases and consenting. Amy is well connected throughout New Zealand with local and central government and with industry.

Experience demonstrating capability

Lake Pūkaki Contingent Storage

Meridian Energy | Canterbury | 2024 – present Lead Planner

Amy is the Lead Planner on this Meridian Energy FastTrack consenting project. The project involves obtaining eased access to water below the current operating limit for a period of 3 years while other energy resources are bought online. It also includes rock armouring of the dam face to protect the infrastructure from wave erosion. Initially the project involved assessing the planning implications of the proposal which would otherwise be a prohibited activity, advising the client on the fast track process, briefing technical specialists and preparing the Referral Application.

While the Referral Application has been being considered Amy has led the team developing scopes for the substantive application and guiding technical specialists through the FastTrack approach. She has also worked closely with the client on stakeholder engagement approaches and project risk. With the

Referral Application now accepted Amy is putting the finishing touches on the application before submission.

Second Ashburton Bridge

NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) | Canterbury | 2025 - present Technical Reviewer

The project involves the construction of a second bridge across the Ashburton River in Canterbury. The proposed works include earthworks, dewatering, diversions, discharges (both construction phase and operational phase), works in ecologically sensitive areas, and designations.

Amy is the technical reviewer on this project overseeing the team providing advice to NZTA on consenting requirements, potential risks and implications, as well as reviewing the consent applications.

Tiwai Aluminium Smelter Landfill

NZAS | Southland | 2020 – 2025

Lead Planner

Amy is the Lead Planner on the Tiwai Point Landfill consenting project. This has involved assessing the planning implications of a series of long term management options, providing strategic advice on the consenting risks and pathways including considering the implications of RMA Reform, liaising with District and Regional Councils and key stakeholders, and most recently preparing a suite of consent applications for submission to Council. Amy has become a trusted advisor to the client providing direction on specialist reports and working with the wider project team to assist them to understand the objectives and implications of the proposed works.

Now that the short term consents are with Council, the next stage of the project involves working closely with key stakeholders and local Iwi to develop a long term management strategy for the site and to obtain the necessary resource consents.

Winton Wastewater Treatment Plant

Southland District Council | Southland | on-going
Lead Planner

Amy's work has involved providing strategic planning advice on options for the treatment plant upgrade, assessing risk, pre application discussions with Environment Southland and community engagement. Amy works closely with the client and design team to provide practical solutions to a quickly evolving project, taking into account the local statutory framework.

The next stage of the project now includes applying for a suite of resource consents to allow SDC to implement the short and long term solutions, engaging technical specialists and further stakeholder engagement.

Waitaki Stopbank, Stormwater Facility and Tidal wetland

Lead Planner/Technical Reviewer | Christchurch City Council | 2020 - 2023

Amy started as the lead environmental planner, then took on the role of technical reviewer in a multi-discipline team seeking resource consents to construct and operate a new urban stormwater facility, stopbank and the rehabilitation of part of the Christchurch red zone into a tidal wetland.

The project has involved several technical difficulties including the interaction of groundwater and surface water environments, presence of contaminated soils and the ecological risks of the project.

Amy has helped the GHD team to navigate a complex range of environmental planning matters to and to prepare and lodge the Resource Consent applications for the project.

Following lodgement of the application Amy has worked with the project team to deal with requests for further information and to find a pathway for the project.

Wakatipu Active Travel Network Consenting

NZTA Waka Kotahi | Queenstown | 2020 – 2022

Lead Planner

Amy updating the consenting strategy and preparing the required resource consent applications, notices of requirement and outline plans for the first three sections of the Wakatipu Active Travel Network. Amy's experience dealing with complex projects means she is able to efficiently identify required technical inputs and advise on the most effective consenting strategy

Pareroa Water Supply Pipeline

Pipeline | Timaru District Council, Timaru
2019 – 2023

Lead Planner

Amy is developing a consenting strategy and obtaining the required approvals for a new water supply pipeline between Lindisfarne and Timaru. The pipe route crosses 3 districts includes multiple river crossings and significant natural areas as well as heritage items and archaeological sites.

Amy has worked closely with the project team to identify and manage risks and to develop a robust consenting plan that will enable a collaborative approach to the consent preparation. Amy has instigated early discussions with representatives from the relevant district and regional councils to ensure a consistent approach to consent processing and to develop a robust suite of consent conditions

2013 – present	GHD, Technical Director
2008 – 2013	Spiire New Zealand Limited, Senior Resource Management Planner
2006 – 2008	Beca Carter Hollings and Ferner Limited, Senior Planner
2004 – 2006	Glasson Potts Fowler Limited, Planner
2002 – 2004	Harrison Grierson Consultants Limited, Planner
2001 – 2002	Timaru District Council, Planner
