

## **Helen Atkins**

Helen has been an active water NZ member for some 20 years, coming from a different (Legal) background to most of our members she has taken a real interest in the association and provided a substantial professional and personal contribution. Helen has been a regular contributor to the journal providing resource management, local government and environmental law and legal insights to the membership for over 15 years. All of us would have read or referred to her Water NZ legal articles at some time. This contribution has been completed in her own time for the benefit of members. Helen joined the board as a co-opted member in 2012 providing some diversity to our governance structure in terms of her background. She has used her contacts and legal skills to support the associations advocacy and to promote the work of water NZ to both central and local government. Helen is currently serving a further term as an elected member to the board which is a reflection of the membership support she has as a result of the substantial contributions made.

Over the past 6 years as a Water NZ board member Helen has provided legal support and advice to the association, she covered a number of legal and policy aspects to support the submissions, medial releases and general enquiries to the association during the Havelock North enquiry process. She has provided legal advice and strong governance advocacy and direction to the current and previous 3 presidents always willing to help with any problem or issue facing the association in her own time. Helen has also been instrumental with fostering the fresh water quality debate highlighting the legal and governance implications to members, providing objective views and a respected and professional face on behalf of the association to other stakeholders.

Helen has contributed the water sector and the association above and beyond the call of duty and would be a worthy recipient of a golden shovel.

Nominated by: Steve Couper

Seconded by: Dukessa Blackburn-Huettner