

Celebrating Excellence: Three Land Matters Planners Accredited as Independent Hearing Commissioners

“Congratulations to Bryce Holmes, Anna Carter, and Tom Bland on completing the Making Good Decisions programme and becoming accredited Independent Hearing Commissioners. This milestone strengthens our ability to serve communities, councils, and clients with fairness, expertise, and integrity.”



Role of a hearing Commissioner

Hearing commissioners play a critical role in the resource management process in Aotearoa. They are responsible for weighing evidence, listening to diverse perspectives, and making independent, well-reasoned decisions on applications that shape how our communities grow and develop. Independence and impartiality are at the heart of the role, ensuring that all parties including applicants, submitters, iwi, and councils are heard fairly and transparently.

At Land Matters, we are proud that three of our planners have now stepped into this important space, bringing their expertise, judgement, and professional integrity to the role of commissioner.

Making Good decisions

The Making Good Decisions programme is the nationally recognised training for RMA hearings commissioners. It equips professionals with the legal, procedural, and practical knowledge needed to conduct hearings and issue robust decisions.

Our three Principal Planners successfully completed this intensive training and have now been accredited as independent commissioners. This achievement reflects their extensive understanding of the Resource Management Act and their capability to lead hearings with confidence, clarity, and fairness. It also demonstrates their commitment to continuous professional development and to upholding high standards in decision-making.

Why it Matters

For our clients, communities, and councils, having accredited hearing commissioners within our team brings significant value. It means we can contribute to decision-making processes with impartiality and credibility, while also strengthening our insight into how applications are assessed at hearings.

This achievement not only enhances the professional standing of our team but also ensures that we continue delivering what matters most; practical, fair, and future-focused outcomes for the people and places we serve.

We congratulate our three distinguished planners on this milestone and look forward to the positive impact their commissioner roles will bring across Aotearoa.



Bryce Holmes

Principal Planner & Director

bryce@landmatters.nz

021 877 143



Anna Carter

Principal Planner

anna@landmatters.nz

021 170 4787



Tom Bland

Principal Planner

tom@landmatters.nz

021 877 894