



### 301 Journey as a Councillor: Stewarding our Tūrangawaewae in Difficult Circumstances

#### Jako Abrie, Beca

A councillor's journey in Tauranga that started with good intentions, was rocked by scandal, and ended with commissioners. Jako will provide a personal perspective into life as a councillor, while sharing lessons learnt from a governance perspective. The theme of the presentation is 'stewarding our tūrangawaewae for future generations'.

#### 1. Why run for council?

To make a difference. Local authorities can help steward our tūrangawaewae – the places where our diverse communities feel belonging. Elected members have two primary roles: they are the governance board for the local authority, and they represent all of their communities.

#### 2. An insight into the day-to-day experience of being a councillor

One moment you are providing direction on \$300m of expenditure, the next you are on the side of the road listening to a resident complain about a pothole. Jako will share stories, and provide suggestions on how council staff, interest groups and residents can improve their engagement with elected members to help them in decision making.

#### 3. Could commissioners have been avoided?

The saga of Tauranga's governance issues was well covered in local and national news, and by the Crown appointed Review and Observation Team. Jako will provide recommendations on training, support and processes local authorities may wish to consider for their elected members.

#### 4. Going forward

Jako will share concluding thoughts on local representation and governance, and why he remains optimistic.

### 302 Guardians of the Galaxy: a Whimsical Journey through the Career of an Asset Manager.

#### Priyani De Silva-Currie, Beca Ltd

27 years is a long time protecting the universe - Priyani will lead you on a personal journey to be proud of your asset management career, harnessing the superpowers you need now and into the future. This isn't a technical paper! Let's escape from wars and plagues and dream a little.

We often inside joke that ours is a most mysterious and gallant career, not for the faint hearted, a little risky, we are compelling story tellers, bringers of imagined futures and seekers of blue-sky visions. Cloaked guardians touched with a sprinkling of wisdom, chalked up real life experiences,

# People & Community Stream

## Concurrent Sessions

balanced pragmatic individuals with strong foundations in technical knowledge. What we struggle with every day is defining for those who may not know, what it is we really do, this great calling to be an asset manager.

I will share with you my responses to the commonly asked questions from non-asset managers. We will explore my journey through the light years, perspectives on what makes an asset manager thrive in our changing environment. I will examine a timeline of what we used to do, what we do now, what we could do in the future. I'm going challenge where our profession is going (to infinity and beyond). This may surprise you! I hope to leave you with some sage advice, the ingredients, and a recipe to build a new generation of these wonderful ethereal beings.

### 303 Case Studies of Seismic Resilient Transmission Water Pipelines for High-risk Environments

**Todd Randell, Hynds Pipe Systems**

In recent years New Zealand water authorities have chosen to design and install water pipelines that are more resistant when exposed to natural disasters and where pipelines could be exposed to ground-contamination. This paper will review two case studies of high-risk locations and installations in New Zealand where elimination of all risk is paramount.

Risk minimisation in infrastructure projects has increasingly become an essential feature of product lifecycle management and a critical requirement for the sustainable wellbeing of living societies today.

In New Zealand two major water authorities are constructing crucial Water Transmission Mains using one of the worlds' most proven Seismic Resilient pipe technologies available, the asset owners have provided approval for the use of Seismic Resilient Ductile Iron Pipe.

This presentation will feature the design and construction of a DN1500 Raw Water Supply transmission main and more than 2km length DN350 transfer main supplying a critical port and its community.

These pipelines are vulnerable assets, they will be exposed to environmental events such as: Contaminated ground, Faultline crossings, earthquakes, ground liquefaction, landslide, and a major bridge-river crossing and bridge will be featured. This technology is best suited for use in crucial service hubs (such as hospitals, civil defence head-quarters) and government buildings.

The presentation covers the design features of its unique and innovative "anchor-block" free, "chain-link-restraint" pipeline systems which tolerate severe extension-compression movements and angular deflection to occur simultaneously during natural disasters.

### 304 Raising the Bar through Broader Outcomes: a Passing Fad or an Opportunity for an Industry Revolution?

**Sarah Langi & Matt Bismark, Beca**

Social procurement, broader outcomes. Bah, humbug!  
Surely, just another passing fad that will die a death once the next buzz word comes around.

# People & Community Stream

## Concurrent Sessions

Or is it?

Is it perhaps our opportunity, as an industry to change things up? Is it a chance to think outside the box, and use our privilege and skills to leave behind positive legacies that elevate the outcomes of the infrastructure we're constructing?

Is it a chance to embrace change, lead by example and raise the bar for the sector?

One of the growing priorities for public sector agencies is how to leverage more lasting value from public spend. To this end, governments around the world, including in New Zealand and Australia, are mandating the use of broader outcomes in the procurement activities of a wide range of central and local government agencies.

Today, drivers such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Corporate Social Responsibility trends and ESG outcomes make it clear that we all need, and can, do much better. For many, however, this shift away from price and quality as dominant priorities challenges long held norms and notions, and questions some of our conventional procurement practices. As an industry, we need to be prepared to think differently to achieve differently. Are we ready to step up and challenge the status quo?

Beca has been on a journey to learn about, and deliver broader outcomes for our clients and communities. In this presentation we will share our experiences through a number of case studies, where we have challenged the norm, and delivered more for local environments and communities. It hasn't been easy, but it's certainly been rewarding.

### **305 Sustainable Future – Providing Asset Managers for Tomorrow**

**Theuns Henning, Elke Beca, Jonathan Morris, John MacDonald & Jodie O'Doherty**  
**University of Auckland/IDS, WSP, Waka Kotahi NZTA, IPWEA NZ**

Asset management is increasingly recognised as an integral part of providing sustainable services to our communities but like all systems, it relies on competent people to develop and deliver good results. The infrastructure asset management sector does not fully understand the impact the pandemic and associated border closures will have on human resources now and into the future. The sector relies significantly on international skilled people entering the country to supplement the local graduates and cadets taking up asset management positions. Other market forces such as the emigration of young New Zealand talent offshore, the retirement of the of ex-Ministry of Works generation and uncertainty of the future prospects due to the water reform further depleting the current knowledge base.

Bridging this resource gap will require several strategies, including training and upskilling newcomers to asset management. Progress has been made through the development of competency frameworks. A structured development pathway is required to guide asset management practitioners in their learning, both formal and informal. This paper explores education, training and development programmes in asset management. It maps both skill development and qualifications available and explores the areas of training and education requiring more support from the sector.

# People & Community Stream

## Concurrent Sessions

### 306 Workplace Wellbeing and a Healthy Bottom Line – One Can't Happen Without the Other

**Jane Kennelly, Skills Consulting Group**

We all hear the discussion about the importance of wellbeing in the workplace. It's everywhere – in the papers, online, at the water cooler – and it's only gaining momentum.

But the reality is, it's not a passing fad. And employers everywhere need to recognise this.

Wellbeing in the workplace – having happy, healthy people who want to work for you is crucial on so many levels. It affects retention of staff, it shows in the customer experience and ultimately, it reflects in your business' performance.

Jane will cover three areas:

- Key findings from Skills' 2022 Work Wellbeing Index which outlines what workers need from their workplace - and why showing genuine care is critical for business growth
- 'Fencing off the Cliff': A hi-tech solution supporting 1,000 construction apprentices
- Using AI, clinical and behavioural science and backed up human interaction; at-risk individuals are identified before challenges cause serious mental harm.

### 307 Our People are a Finite Resource – Understanding their Strengths and your Risks

**Roger Brady & Andrew McKillop, REG**

As change occurs around us, all Road Controlling Authorities and contractors are required to deliver business objectives in an increasingly constrained environment. The Road Efficiency Group (REG) programme has developed tools to objectively assess the competencies within your team, demonstrate where to focus staff development or effectively procure to close the skills gap – giving you confidence in delivering great services for your communities.

It is critical we understand the skills, or more importantly skills gaps within an organisation. This will enable you to minimise risk and maximise the return from investment in constrained learning and development programmes, or procure the right services to effectively run the business.

REG has developed tools to assess staff competencies for both individuals and at an organisational level.

In 2019 REG released the Asset Management Competency Framework (AMCF). This year REG will complete a Procurement Competency Framework based on best New Zealand practice, and in 2023 a Network Management Competency Framework will be developed.

To ensure quality assessment and reporting on skills and competencies, the AMCF assessment and reporting is now included in the REG Insights reporting tool, providing better access to key data and allow organisations to tailor staff development.

The AMCF is founded on the ISO 55001 Standard and is asset agnostic, making it relatable for staff working across most asset groups.

# People & Community Stream

## Concurrent Sessions

The REG programme is a partnership between LGNZ, Waka Kotahi, and all RCAs focused on addressing high variability in service and costs across the national transport system.

### 308 The Circular Economy and Te Ao Māori: What we can learn from Indigenous Worldviews

**Debbie O’Byrne & John Blyth, Beca**

Our current linear “take-make-waste” economy is a key driver in the world’s most critical challenges with siloed thinking, negative environmental impacts, and poor mechanisms for intergenerational decision making. The global transition to a Circular Economy can benefit from indigenous worldviews about thinking in systems, finding balance with nature and intergenerational values.

In 1992, The Union of Concerned Scientists asserted that humankind and the natural world are on a collision course, threatening the sustainability and security of world economies and communities. A key driver for these significant negative outcomes is the linear ‘take-make-waste’ structure of our economy with siloed thinking, a focus on optimising components (e.g. individuals, organisations, countries) without seeing the economy as a complex, inter-related system embedded in the natural world.

The global shift to a more Circular Economy takes a more holistic view and has many concepts that have been a way of life for millennia within indigenous communities. Here in Aotearoa, a Māori worldview places a great emphasis on the interconnectedness of everything and has concepts of reciprocity, restoration, access, not ownership, of resources and a strong intergenerational component.

Our presentation will explore how Te Ao Māori can accelerate New Zealand’s shift to a more Circular Economy enabling our economy and the people and communities within it to flourish.

### 309 From Engineer to Food Rescue Hero

**Phillipa Hunt, WSP**

Phillipa Hunt is an engineer who also leads a food rescue organisation. She discusses how food rescue is the perfect example of sustainability in action as it tackles head on the global issues of food waste and food poverty, aiming to eliminate both. She explores how, as engineers, we can learn from and help with the diverse sustainability efforts in the non-profit sector.

I have been an engineer for many years, and although this profession has utilised many of my strengths, it has not satisfied my passion for environmental and social reform. So, I set up a non-profit organisation, one that helps both the planet and people, a food rescue organisation.

Global food waste is a massive environmental, social and economic issue with approximately 1/3 of all food produced for human consumption going to waste and up to 10% of total global carbon emissions being associated with food waste. The concept and practice of food rescue is a perfect example of sustainability in action, addressing the environmental issue of food waste and the social and economic issue of food poverty. While being an engineer has played a crucial role in the success of my organisation, I also believe that as engineers we can learn from and be inspired by the sustainability solutions and actions happening in the non-profit sector.

**Sustainability  
through Reform.**  
Taking Aotearoa to 2050