



EMBARGOED UNTIL 5:00AM, FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2024

NEWS RELEASE: INVESTMENT LACKING IN ASSET MANAGEMENT EQUATION, NEW REPORT SHOWS

Never has there been a greater time to invest in and support, not undermine, asset management capabilities across central and local governments.

So says Āpōpō President Gary Porteous, who welcomes The New Zealand Infrastructure Commission, Te Waihanga’s latest State of Play Report.

Setting out a high-level snapshot of New Zealand’s approaches to asset management, the report rates the country’s assets as ‘passable’, but only just.

“Effectively managing the infrastructure around us that enables so much of our quality of life is the endeavour of professionals with specific knowledge and skills in asset management,” Porteous says.

“But we struggle to put in place all the capabilities required for effective asset management.”

Investing in training programmes is a key component of Te Waihanga’s eight recommendations, critical to improving infrastructure providers’ asset management capabilities and processes.

It is heartening to hear Te Waihanga echoing this sentiment in its call to take care of tomorrow today,” Porteous says.

“We must increase, not decrease, investment in asset management capability development and knowledge sharing so that New Zealand has the skills and expertise required to make the most of the infrastructure we have.”

In a sustained effort to build asset management capacity and competency in New Zealand, Āpōpō has delivered over 6,500 short online Digital Badge courses in asset management and related topics over the past five years.

Yet they are seeing a concerning drop in participation after training and development budgets have been slashed – both in central and local government.

The Association offers a no-cost Infrastructure Leadership and Governance Digital Badge to encourage decision-makers to be informed about what constitutes good asset management.

The portfolio of Digital Badge learning is an important component that seamlessly leads into [the Āpōpō accreditation of Asset Management Chartered Professionals \(AMCP\)](#), launched earlier this year.

All these initiatives are designed so decision-makers can better discharge their accountabilities to the communities served by infrastructure assets, Porteous says.

The Āpōpō professional pathway gives life to Te Waihanga's recommendation that a clear training and professional pathway for asset managers be developed.

Porteous also calls for public and private major infrastructure providers to adopt the pathway and endorse AMCP accreditation as a minimum standard of competence for their asset managers.

“The effect of this will be to raise the bar of asset management performance and to deliver effective and efficient use of that infrastructure more consistently for community benefit.

To speak with Āpōpō President Gary Porteous, contact James Paul on 022 514 0716 or email james@theprcompany.co.nz.

About Āpōpō

Āpōpō's 1,000 members are central and local government asset managers along with interested suppliers and experts who are responsible for ensuring that New Zealand's infrastructure functions effectively to meet the needs of current and future communities. Founded in 1948, Āpōpō now produces asset management professional practice guidance, accredits competency against globally aligned standards, delivers a range of training and learning, hosts technical and industry conferences and advocates for enhancing the capability of infrastructure asset management professionals for Aotearoa New Zealand.