



# IPWEA

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
ENGINEERING AUSTRALASIA

## Media Release

18 May 2023

There were no surprises that the New Zealand budget focused its infrastructure strategy on the cyclone and flood recovery with an additional \$6b for the National Resilience Plan to address the newly released Infrastructure Action Plan. There is also \$71b for new and existing infrastructure projects and \$100m for Rau Paenga, a new infrastructure delivery agency repurposed from Christchurch Rebuild agency Ōtākaro.

These initiatives are welcomed; However, we remain committed to the long-term future of managing our infrastructure assets, comprehensive investment in infrastructure, addressing skills shortages throughout the delivery of community facing infrastructure, and specifically in local government engineering and encouraging our next generation into the profession.

“More investment is required to develop capacity and capability in local government engineering. Services that many take for granted are reliant on skilled professionals to deliver. People are the most important resource, and by taking a long-term approach, we will deliver better management of existing assets, grow capability, and allow local communities to thrive. That’s good for the economy and New Zealanders as a whole.” Myles Lind, President IPWEA

Further analysis of the He Whakakaupapa mō Te Hanganga o Aotearoa: The Infrastructure Action Plan 2023 does highlight the need to focus on maintenance and renewals. We are pleased that the New Zealand government recognises the importance of strategic infrastructure asset management. It is not just about building ‘new’ assets.

There are a variety of inputs when building a long-term infrastructure plan – the dominant rhetoric is climate change and the effect of extreme disasters – all very valid. That being said, changing demographics and the advent of new technologies also need to be considered, and any infrastructure plan on this scale needs to be linked to an overall financial plan.

The government is correct to highlight the need for a skilled workforce, which is where IPWEA can assist. We have the trust of local government – built over many years - throughout New Zealand and Australia. Many are members, and our micro-credential program in asset management provides an opportunity to upskill a workforce- linked to global best practices and international recognition.

IPWEA has experience working with governments worldwide to support capacity and capability in infrastructure asset management planning. This is best highlighted in Canada, A CAD\$110 million initiative, the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP), is in its sixth year and is scheduled to run until 2023-24. IPWEA’s Professional Certificate in Asset Management Planning is a key program of MAMP.

New Zealand needs collective ownership of a national plan to ensure infrastructure delivers the greatest return for today’s taxpayers and future generations. This requires long-term investment, long-term thinking, and a commitment to building capability in the sector by both central and regional government partners.



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## **About**

IPWEA The Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia is the peak association for municipal and public works professionals in Australia and New Zealand. IPWEA is a global leader in the delivery of asset management education, sustainable infrastructure asset management, financial planning, and reporting.

If you have any questions or require further comment please contact IPWEA CEO David Jenkins [david.jenkins@ipwea.org](mailto:david.jenkins@ipwea.org)

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