



Future-Fit Aotearoa Conference speaker information

- Who: ACE New Zealand and IPWEA NZ
- Date: Tuesday 7 – Thursday 9 September 2021
- Venue: Cordis Hotel, Auckland
- MC: Pio Terei

As a speaker at the Future-Fit Aotearoa Conference, you'll be interested in the audience you're talking to. Here's some background information.

About ACE New Zealand and IPWEA NZ

The conference is a joint ACE New Zealand and IPWEA NZ event. It's our biggest event of the year and attracts around 350 people made up of engineers, architects, project managers, surveyors, scientists and planners as well as local and central government employees.

ACE NEW ZEALAND

ACE New Zealand (ACE) advances the practice of consulting and engineering, enabling our members to actively and positively shape the future of Aotearoa. We have over 220 member firms who employ more than 13,000 staff ranging from large global firms to employee-owned SMEs. Our members play a critical role in the planning, design and delivery for our nation's built and natural environments.

IPWEA NZ

IPWEA NZ represents, develops and enhances the public asset management profession in Aotearoa to enable sustainable communities. . We have over 900 members made up of professionals who deliver public asset and infrastructure management and engineering services to communities in New Zealand.

Audience analysis

The Future-Fit Aotearoa conference attracts professionals who are at the forefront of delivering critical technology, construction and infrastructure, alongside key influencers and decision-makers from central and local government involved in policy development and implementation. Together, attendees represent the essential expertise needed to shape the future of our built and natural environment in Aotearoa.

Audience profile

- Attendees: Approx. 350
- Ages: 30 - 65+ years
- Average age: 45 - 50 years
- % M/F: 70/30
- Partners: A small number of partners attend the keynote and social functions

Conference purpose

The 2021 conference theme is “Future Fit Aotearoa – Unlocking our potential”.

By holding this joint conference, ACE New Zealand and IPWEA NZ aim to provide an experience that leaves participants feeling:

- inspired about their role in shaping the future of New Zealand
- informed about how to thrive in disruption
- connected to their peers, having built productive new relationships
- prepared to participate in thought leadership, to inspire new actions and drive the profession forward
- recognised for their achievements of the last year.

Conference theme

At Future-Fit we will explore how our members and sector can survive and thrive through the disruptions of today and tomorrow.

Be it a worldwide pandemic, our changing climate, global financial crises, or digital disruption, we need to be ready to face the challenges head on. This means having a strong, agile and productive workforce, bold and innovative solutions, collaborative and trusting relationships, and an awareness of our broader social responsibilities to Aotearoa New Zealand.

Today we need to address the challenges of historical infrastructure under investment, significant demand on our infrastructure and communities looming from climate change, ongoing population growth and ever-increasing expectations of utility and performance, digitally enabled opportunities, and significant gaps in our talent capacity and capability. Preparing ourselves now for the challenges of tomorrow means making sure our workforce has the environment and skills to successfully deliver innovative solutions that advance Aotearoa as an enviable nation on the global stage.

Topics for keynote speakers and panel discussions to inform and inspire thought-provoking change and ideas will include:

- Climate adaptation, mitigation and sustainability – meeting our commitments front-on
- Social responsibility – delivering a better future together
- People and culture – building a thriving workforce
- Digital innovations and disruption – emerging technologies that will shape our solutions
- Infrastructure innovations – new methods to slay the challenge
- Risk, contracts and insurance – making barriers from the past for our building blocks of the future
- Overcoming infrastructure bottlenecks – enhancing productivity and efficiency

Specialist interest areas will include:

- water
- transport
- asset management
- collaboration
- innovation
- climate challenges and resilience
- sustainability
- procurement
- environmental
- land development
- planning
- RMA
- infrastructure
- management (people contacts)
- best practice projects

Exhibition, social and networking events within the programme include:

- Two evening functions / dinners including the ACE New Zealand Awards and IPWEA NZ Awards event
- An exhibition hall showcasing new ideas and products
- Fully-catered day sessions including breakfast, morning and afternoon tea, lunch and happy- hour

Public infrastructure sector background

Aotearoa faces many challenges that impact on our ability to plan and fund infrastructure - such as a relatively static and aging population along with uneven urban development. Sector reform is progressing, with Three Waters, Local Government, and Resource Management Act reform significantly changing the ownership, governance policy and operating environments for all stakeholders in public infrastructure.

Public works and infrastructure generally have a long life, 50+ years, and are subject to an unknown and unknowable future environment. Public expectations of service performance from their public assets and infrastructure continue to increase and the appropriateness and cost of solutions are intensely scrutinised.

However, our understanding of (or ability to understand) the extent and state of our infrastructure is improving, along with what we should expect of its performance and resilience. Methods are continually improving for optimising performance and properly planning for maintenance and replacement.

Our circumstances are always changing with regard to either what we want to achieve with our infrastructure, or how we can achieve it. There are many stakeholders involved, including the community, bulk users, regulators, asset owners, designers and contractors. Alongside this, are organisations such as IPWEA NZ and ACE New Zealand who, along with the stakeholders, all seek to maintain and improve efficient, sustainable and effective outcomes for Aotearoa.

What we hope our delegates take home

This is our premiere annual educational and networking event. We want participants to leave feeling energised and excited, inspired and informed, and feeling that they have personally taken something away from each session. We want them to make decisions and take action in their businesses as a result, and to feel proud to be a part of the organisation. We also want them to feel that they have had value-for-money - and a lot of fun!

Your message to the audience

Lively, informative and thought-provoking:

- for tomorrow, not just for today
- for me, for our sector and for Aotearoa.

The single most important thing we want the audience to remember about the presentation

Connecting what they personally have gained from attending the session to how they can use that to enhance the services they provide to Aotearoa now and into the future.

Sensitive issues to avoid

There are none – we encourage presenters to be direct and open. All we ask is for our presenters to be mindful of our values, and our organizational commitments to diversity and inclusion and sustainability.

Values

We expect ourselves, our members and those participating in our events to adhere to our values:

- RESPECT – We treat people with fairness and equity, acknowledging our communities and community. We provide a safe, nurturing environment
- INTEGRITY – We demonstrate honesty, transparency, fairness and clear boundaries in all our interactions
- PASSION – We strive for the best, stand up for what we believe in, and go the extra distance. We want to make a difference in people’s lives
- EXCELLENCE – We are committed to excellence in everything we do. We are innovative, responsive, and continually raising the bar
- RECOGNITION – We recognise the contribution that people make and we celebrate their success
- OWNERSHIP – We hold ourselves accountable for our actions, take ownership and deliver on our promises

Principles

We have designed Future-Fit to align to two core principles that are of critical importance to both ACE New Zealand and IPWEA:

- **Diversity and inclusion**

Consulting and engineering is for everyone and everyone is welcome. Our members and the communities we serve are diverse. IPWEA NZ and ACE New Zealand has a Diversity and Inclusion policy that must be adhered to by staff, members and those participating in events:

- We regard diversity and inclusion as essential to successfully and sustainably achieving our goals for our sector
- We regard discrimination as unfair, unacceptable and unlawful so we will not tolerate its practice
- In support of this policy, we provide a safe and healthy environment for all delegates attending our events and we do not accept any of our attendees to be involved / put in a situation that they may find uncomfortable and/or unwelcoming.

- **Sustainability**

We are asking our members to help Aotearoa meet our climate adaptation, mitigation and sustainability challenges head on, and to be credible we must lead by example. We are committed to providing a conference experience that puts sustainability at the centre and helps change perceptions and minds about our broader role in helping achieve climate commitments.

If there is to be an interactive segment, you must advise us in advance, describing what this may include and ensuring there are no surprises.

All presenters, speakers, entertainers and trainers are required to acknowledge and adhere to the above Values and Diversity and Inclusion policy.