



Working with what we have

Resilience for the Future

Whakamahinga ki ngā mea kei a tātou:
He manawaroa mō ngā rā anamata
Transportation Conference 2026



8 – 11 March 2026
Tākina Convention Centre
Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington



Panel Discussion: Greening Our Cities: Building Nature-based Resilience for Transport Infrastructure Across Aotearoa

Transport services and infrastructure are encountering significant challenges because of climate change and the ongoing decline of natural ecosystems. Amid rising housing demands throughout Aotearoa, there is increasing acknowledgement that nature-based solutions offer effective means to improve the resilience of transportation infrastructure. Incorporating ecological principles and nature-based resilience into the planning, design, operation, and maintenance of roads and other transport networks can help mitigate environmental risks and enhance the stability of these systems.

This panel will address essential considerations regarding the significance of enhancing nature-based resilience within transport infrastructure. Topics to be explored include appropriate timing, the cultivation of relevant mindsets, knowledge dissemination, policy adaptation, resource allocation, and the application of tools. The session will discuss various greening initiatives, including urban forests, green corridors, living roofs, permeable pavement, and street vegetation, which contribute to ecological resilience in urban environments and address Kai Security within the context of community resilience.

These measures provide a range of advantages, including increased biodiversity, mitigation of the urban heat island effect, and improved stormwater management. Their implementation is particularly relevant given New Zealand's distinct ecosystems and the growing challenges posed by climate change, which impact both the natural landscape and the reliability of essential transportation routes.

Incorporating nature-based design solutions into new and existing transport projects enables cities throughout Aotearoa to reduce susceptibility to extreme weather events, foster community well-being, and support indigenous flora and fauna. Collaboration among iwi, local authorities, planners, and the private sector is integral to ensuring that greening strategies are culturally responsive and tailored to local needs. This approach not only protects physical infrastructure from flooding, erosion, and overheating but also aligns with New Zealand's global and local sustainability commitments and obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Ultimately, advancing urban greening represents a practical and necessary strategy for developing resilient, future-ready transport systems that serve both people and the environment.