



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



TransitionScaping Hub

In the early 2000's I was invited to design a workshop for North Shore Council. The objective was to bring together the Urban Planners and Designers, Transport Planners and Engineers, Traffic Planners and Engineers, Land Use Planners and Policy Strategy Developers. This was when I learned that the benefits of disciplinary specialisation can also be the source of conflict. Over the next 20 years my research group pursued the question “How do we engineer systems sustainability transitions?” In New Zealand, the most unsustainable systems are transport. But transport is the most wicked problem for system transition engineering because of the complexity and competing stakeholder objectives. Over the next 20 years, our research approach was real-world action research, meaning to work with communities, councils, consultants, and companies on what they need and what their problems are. The approach of Systems Transition Engineering and the processes, methods and modelling tools were then exported to Scotland in 2023 and employed in Orkney, Shetland and Outer Hebrides. The Islands Centre for Net Zero, with £32M government support, works to support the islands to “go first” in building sustainable futures. The TransitionScaping Hub is a novel concept for how society can build the capability, modelling and research that we need to build transitions. Imagine that we are in a historical period, like other historical transitions, where we create the capacity to build a new trajectory.