



Working with what we have

Resilience for the Future

Whakamahinga ki ngā mea kei a tātou:
He manawaroa mō ngā rā anamata
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Resilient or Reactive? The Future of Australia's Transport Network

Australia's transport networks are increasingly exposed to disruption, from extreme weather and asset failure through to supply chain shocks and accelerating decarbonisation pressures. Despite growing investment and policy attention, much of the resilience effort remains reactive rather than systemic.

The core challenge is not a lack of ambition or policy intent. It is the disconnect between what is planned, what is actually needed, what is financially and operationally feasible, and how transport systems adapt over time. Meanwhile, Governments, particularly at local level, are being expected to do more with constrained budgets, rising community expectations and limited control over higher order policy settings.

This presentation draws on experiences from transport professionals across Australia, alongside TPA's own Path to Net Zero framework. It will show how authorities are embedding resilience in practice, including climate risk assessments, framework adaptation and the application of 'build back better' principles following disruption. It also identifies the gaps that remain between policy intent, funding models and on-the-ground delivery, and proposes a practical roadmap to move from reactive recovery towards genuinely resilient, future-ready transport systems.