

MEDIA RELEASE

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## Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Kataraina O'Brien selected for management exchange

Bay of Plenty Regional Council's General Manager Strategic Engagement, Kataraina O'Brien has been selected for the Overseas Manager Exchange to British Columbia, Canada.

The Taituarā Overseas Manager Exchange Programme provides local government managers with the opportunity to focus on their management development and career progression through an intensive exchange with a local government counterpart overseas. The programme is designed to broaden perspectives, strengthen leadership capability and foster lasting international relationships.

Kataraina was recognised for her exceptional leadership, strategic vision and longstanding contribution to local government.

A Taituarā member since 2011, Kataraina has built a distinguished career across the local government sector and is widely respected for her ability to strengthen relationships, build partnerships and deliver meaningful outcomes for communities. Her work has included embedding mana whenua partnerships and kaitiakitanga into council governance and decision-making, while also contributing to the wider sector through leadership roles and voluntary service.

The judges highlighted Kataraina's depth of experience and her commitment to fostering strong relationships across organisations and communities.

“Kataraina brings a depth of experience, and her strategic vision will strengthen enduring relationships between local government professionals in British Columbia and Aotearoa,” the judges said.

The exchange will provide opportunities to share knowledge, explore different approaches to local government leadership and strengthen professional connections between local government practitioners in Canada and New Zealand.

The judges said Kataraina's leadership and experience make her an ideal representative for New Zealand local government.



“Her ability to connect people, ideas and organisations will ensure lasting value from the exchange programme, both for participants and for the wider sector.”

### **About the Taituarā Overseas Manager Exchange Programme**

The Taituarā Overseas Manager Exchange Programme provides local government managers with a unique opportunity to focus on their management development and career progression through short-term exchanges with local government counterparts overseas. The programme broadens perspectives, fosters new ideas and strengthens leadership capability across New Zealand’s local government sector.

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For further information, please contact Sophie Prebble | Manager, Marketing and Communications [Sophie.prebble@taituara.org.nz](mailto:Sophie.prebble@taituara.org.nz)