

MEDIA RELEASE

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## Gisborne District Council's Anita Reedy-Holthausen selected for management exchange

Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti – Gisborne District Council Director Engagement and Māori Partnerships Anita Reedy-Holthausen has been selected for the AskYourTeam Overseas Manager Exchange to New South Wales, Australia.

Overseas Management Exchange recipients were announced at the 2026 LGFA Taituarā Excellence Awards held at Tākina in Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington on 18 June 2026.

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.

Anita was recognised for her outstanding leadership, resilience and commitment to her community and the wider local government sector.

A Taituarā member since 2016, Anita played a critical role in leading community engagement and strategic planning during Te Tairāwhiti's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle. Working through significant regional uncertainty and economic challenges, she helped ensure communities remained informed, connected and involved in recovery planning and decision-making.

The judges highlighted Anita's ability to navigate complex situations while remaining responsive to the needs of communities and hapū.

“Anita's frontline experience highlights her ability to navigate complex emergencies while remaining deeply responsive to community nuances and hapū needs,” the judges said.

The exchange will provide opportunities to share lessons from disaster recovery, community engagement and resilience planning, while strengthening professional relationships between local government practitioners in Australia and Aotearoa.



The judges described Anita as a powerful advocate for her region and a deserving recipient of the exchange award.

### **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.

For more on the 2026 LGFA Taituarā Excellence Awards:

[Download the full media pack](#)

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