

MEDIA RELEASE

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## Western Bay of Plenty District Council's Adele Henderson selected for management exchange

Western Bay of Plenty District Council Programme Director Adele Henderson has been selected for the Civic Financial Services Overseas Manager Exchange to the United States.

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.

Adele was recognised for her exceptional sector leadership, governance expertise and outstanding contribution to local government at a national level.

A Taituarā member since 2013, Adele has made significant contributions to the sector through her leadership of key professional groups and governance bodies, including chairing the Financial Management Reference Group (FMRG) and the Strategic Finance Forum. She has also served on the Local Government Funding Agency Shareholder Council and ALGIM.

Currently serving as Programme Director for the Water Services Establishment at Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Adele is helping lead the establishment of a new water entity while also bringing extensive experience from her work supporting Cyclone Gabrielle recovery efforts.

The judges commended Adele's leadership, governance expertise and commitment to strengthening capability across the local government sector.

“We are certain that Adele will be an exemplary ambassador who will focus on international governance models and sector capability,” the judges said.



“She is a highly respected driving force in the sector, a true asset to her community, and a thoroughly deserving recipient of this exchange award.”

The judges noted that Adele's experience and leadership will enable her to both contribute to and benefit from the international exchange programme, while bringing valuable insights back to New Zealand's local government 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.

For more on the 2026 LGFA Taituarā Excellence Awards:

[Download the full media pack](#)

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