

INFRASTRUCTURE WOMEN IN FOCUS



WIN NZ has been established to increase the visibility of women in the infrastructure sector. Every month we profile a different woman working in a different part of the industry. If you would like to be profiled, or would like to nominate someone to be profiled, please answer the questions below and send your picture through to [Tara](#).

We'd like to introduce Josie Fitzgerald as our next Woman of Focus.



JOSIE FITZGERALD
CLIENT DIRECTOR,
NZ GOVERNMENT AND DEFENCE



1. What company or organisation do you work for and what is your role there?

I work at Aurecon, a global advisory and infrastructure company. I am Aurecon's New Zealand Government and Defence Leader where I'm responsible for enhancing and building our relationships with New Zealand central government, local government and defence organisations. I work to bring together the expertise, experience and networks from across Aurecon to partner with the public service and achieve great outcomes.

2. Tell us about your career background and how you got to this position/role?

Shortly after completing my Bachelor of Surveying at the University of Otago, I joined Aurecon to lead surveying, planning and land development teams with a strong focus on urban development and regeneration projects throughout the Wellington region. I have since dedicated more than 20 years to delivering urban development and infrastructure projects throughout New Zealand, focusing on risk management, financial performance and service quality for my clients. I have also worked with the NZ Defence Force on various projects across their Estate and am currently a Director on the Board of the NZ Defence Industry Association. My number one driver is to create great places and spaces for people to live, work and play. To achieve this, I believe the key is creating great relationships with our clients, building an understanding of their business and their issues, and connecting people within my organization to bring diversity of skill and perspective to help solve their most challenging problems.

3. Tell us about a project are you currently working on and why it interests you?

Aurecon has recently completed a Future Scenario Modelling exercise for a government client with a substantial portfolio of property and related assets. The client delivers a core government service and their property portfolio is critical to the successful delivery of these services. As a part of their long-term planning, the client sought to understand how their portfolio may need to adapt over the next 50 years to ensure that, in an evolving delivery environment, their property portfolio will continue to enable their success. To help them understand how their property portfolio might need to change over the next 50 years, Aurecon conducted a Future Scenario Modelling exercise, looking at a number of mega trends to understand how the future may evolve and the subsequent impacts that resulting scenarios of these mega trends may have on the client's asset base. This project is interesting and exciting to me for many reasons. The client was very forward thinking, passionate about the future of their asset base and about using future insights, and it is a unique, challenging and highly interesting project for the team to work on.

4. What's the hardest job you've ever done and why?

I've been involved in boundary surveys of all scales, including mapping out the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea following their 30-year war. I worked with a team of New Zealand and Swedish surveyors, American GIS analysts, supported by Russian helicopter pilots, and we spent six weeks being helicoptered out to remote areas

to accurately map aerial photography along the border from the highlands in the north to the salt deserts in the south. We encountered many people in our work, including those that had never seen anyone with blond hair, communities that survived through subsistence farming, and people that were hostile towards us and seeking their own independence entirely. This project gave me insights into life in rural Africa and the impact that boundaries (and borders) can have on people's lives and their communities.

5. Can you think of one example where your "diversity" has materially affected the outcome of a work situation or project, either positively or negatively?

I have been living the flexible work policy since well before its formal inception at Aurecon, working part time to raise three young children whilst being an Aurecon owner and progressing through various leadership roles within our organisation. Aurecon has positively supported my family life by allowing and encouraging flexible and part time work hours for me during different stages of my children's lives. This has given me a very positive working experience, allowing me to continue to be a leader in the business and being a role model for other working parents.

To learn more about opportunities for a career with Aurecon click [here](#) or you can connect with Josie on [LinkedIn](#).

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