

# 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 Anna Guise as our next Woman of Focus. Anna is a member of WIN Auckland.**



**ANNA GUISE**  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISOR



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

Kia ora! Ko Anna tōku ingoa. I am an Environmental Advisor at Mott MacDonald; a global engineering, management and development consultancy. I've worked for Mott MacDonald for about four years now, with the last year in Tāmaki Makaurau. I am currently part of the Advisory team and I have a focus on infrastructure planning and delivery, sustainability and environmental impact assessment.

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

I have always been keen on the outdoors and the natural environment, growing up in the rural Suffolk countryside with agricultural connections really fed this. So at university I chose to study Environmental Sciences. As Environmental Sciences is a very broad degree, I was able to study topics from earth surface processes to low carbon energy through to environmental politics and policy making.

Following university I joined a specialist environmental consultancy before moving to the High Speed 2 Environmental Advisory team – one of the UK's biggest infrastructure and environment projects –and then to Mott MacDonald. Each role has given me the opportunity to learn about a wide range of topics and apply these across the lifecycle of projects. From the planning phase of lines on maps, to construction monitoring and auditing, I have been involved in a number of exciting infrastructure projects in the UK. I moved to Aotearoa from the UK about 18 months ago and have since had the opportunity to work on some consenting projects and in the infrastructure sustainability space

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

Mott MacDonald is part of a joint venture in Australia, delivering on Rail Projects in Victoria. Working remotely from my desk in Auckland, I am helping to deliver the infrastructure sustainability design rating for the Melbourne Metro project. It's great to be involved in this as it's such a huge package of work and sustainability is really embedded from the forefront. I've had the opportunity to engage with lots of different people to develop management plans for the project, including waste management, community and stakeholder engagement and renewable energy assessments. This scale and approach opens so many doors to create more sustainable infrastructure, reduce the impact of the pieces we design and build, and create a beneficial asset as opposed to a piece of engineering which sits in a landscape. Such outcomes are why I became an environmental advisor.

Outside of work I have been volunteering over the past year at a couple of different social enterprises across Auckland. Both of these charities have sustainability at their core, to repurpose waste products and in doing so to bring together communities. This is something I am really passionate about and take these philosophies into my

work. I think it's important that we are designing and constructing infrastructure that puts community and the user at its core, to really garner that social resilience that can sometimes feel lacking in modern societies.

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

I spent nearly two years working on the construction phase of a tidal flood defence system in the UK, the Boston Barrier. It was being constructed in a tidal river so there were heaps of environmental constraints, which required a lot of construction monitoring, including underwater noise and water quality. At one stage, there was a need to undertake some piling in the river over a night-time period and we needed to monitor the noise levels from different parts of the town, to ensure we did not exceed our consent limits. A colleague and I stayed up all night with the equipment, we couldn't even chat in case we disrupted the monitoring! Safe to say that was a long night, but the project remains one of my favourites I have worked on to date.

#### **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?**

Whilst working at High Speed Two (the new high speed railway being built in the UK), I was a year out of uni and in my first 'proper' job. I attended a meeting and found myself to be the only female and the only person under the age of 40 in the room. It's a situation I am sure many of us have found ourselves in as new graduates and in the years since. I found it very hard to say anything on this day, but I have realised over time that actually being in this situation, whilst it might have been daunting or nerve-wracking to start with, I was actually no less qualified to be in the room than they were. I was invited to the meeting as the sole environmental representation and actually they would be turning to me for advice. This is something I try to remember when I feel nervous, that I am capable and able and just because I may be younger or a woman it doesn't mean my thoughts are any less valuable.

To learn more about opportunities for a career with Mott MacDonald click [here](#) or, you can connect with Anna on [LinkedIn](#).

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