

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 Lara Al-Hassany as our next Woman of Focus. In addition to her role at Beca, Lara also sits on the WIN Auckland committee.



LARA AL-HASSANY
CIVIL ENGINEER



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

I am a Civil Engineer for Beca, based in the Auckland office. My role is focused on both design and project management in the Transport and Infrastructure space, predominately on roading projects.

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

I interned at two global multidisciplinary consultancies in Qatar, where I worked on infrastructure projects. I enjoyed the scale of the development going on there but felt I needed to gain some practical on-the-ground experience. This is when I looked into contracting and joined Hawkins Infrastructure as a Graduate Site Engineer. There, I worked on urban streetscape developments in Wynyard Quarter with attention to sustainability during the construction phase. I loved seeing the direct impact my work was having, the pace of the job and meeting different people every day. Although I loved being on site, I ended up coming back to consulting about 2 years ago when I joined Beca to develop my technical skills and get back into engineering design.

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

I am working on a road upgrade in Auckland which has given me the chance to learn some geometric design and develop skills in 3D modelling software. I always enjoy projects where I'm learning and where it's easy to see the benefit that the project will deliver to the community, and this one has both of those elements.

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

The switch from contracting to consulting initially felt like a significant career change when I stepped into my current role at Beca. I had a steep learning curve to overcome on a few of my early projects and I think the hardest part was trusting in myself to get through it. I learnt from this that the experience gained over time won't always be directly transferable to a new project or role, but it does shape the way you approach work situations and enriches your skill set regardless.

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?

Visibility of women in this industry is important to me as I think this goes a long way to improving diversity. For this reason, I have put myself forward for leadership roles and taken any opportunity I get to present my work. I have always received positive feedback from other women for this, who have expressed that they are proud to see someone like them being represented. It's a great feeling to have that outcome. I am continually motivated by seeing women in roles I aspire to have leading by example.

To learn more about opportunities for a career with Beca click [here](#).

Or, you can connect with Lara on [LinkedIn](#).

FOLLOW US ON LINKEDIN

women's
infrastructure
network



[Unsubscribe](#)