



Theresa Walsh

Strategic Communications / Consultation Specialist:
T WALSH CONSULTING LTD, AUCKLAND

Theresa brings extensive experience in stakeholder and communication management roles, including on some of New Zealand's most high-profile and complex infrastructure projects over the last decade. These have included Waitemata Harbour Connections, Te Tupu Ngātahi - Supporting Growth Alliance, AMETI, the Downtown Infrastructure Development Programme, New Wynyard Crossing and Connected Communities. With over 30 years industry experience, Theresa draws on established relationships with key partners and stakeholders - including Waka Kotahi, Auckland Transport, Auckland Council and Local Boards – to develop a positive stakeholder landscape to underpin successful project progression.

Recently, through her work on WHC and Te Tupu Ngātahi, Theresa has demonstrated her ability to work closely and productively with client Communications and Engagement Leads to develop and implement complex Communications and Engagement Strategies. Theresa has designed and managed programme-wide partner, stakeholder, and communications needs, led significant Local Board engagement and run stakeholder events. Through this, she has proven her ability to facilitate stakeholder input, manage expectations, mitigate risks, alleviate concerns, address issues and achieve social licence.

Theresa is invested in genuine engagement that makes meaningful contribution to project planning. She works closely with design and planning teams, summarising stakeholder feedback and working to ensure this is factored into their decision-making processes, and designs adjusted where possible to address concerns and incorporate considerations. This approach has led to successful outcomes for the Drury Station projects.

Theresa brings valuable understanding of partner drivers from her work with Waka Kotahi, Auckland Council and AT - including managing the extensive engagement on the draft Unitary Plan. She brings vital understanding of ministerial requirements, deadlines and the need for a sense of urgency at times. This, coupled with her expert understanding of the diverse stakeholder landscape, and her deep networks nurtured over three decades in the industry, means she is well-placed to build a diverse coalition of supporters.

Technical capability: Theresa brings technical capability proven through highly relevant recent experience in similar roles on WHC, TTN, Connected Communities and Puhoi to Warkworth in collaboratively developing reviewing and workshopping Stakeholder Engagement Plans with clients and the wider project team. This has involved identifying and mapping stakeholder issues, building trusted relationships and utilising learnings to improve engagement, bringing stakeholder issues and concerns to the option development process, listening, and communicating appropriately to different groups while capturing key issues, articulating outcomes, and providing robust reporting.

Management skills: Theresa is adept in the effective management of stakeholder expectations to achieve project success. She brings a highly collaborative working style, acting as a conduit between partners, clients, community and stakeholder groups and the project planning and design teams to achieve genuine reflection of stakeholder participation in the project outcomes. A natural relationship builder, with strong existing networks and connections across Waka Kotahi, AT and the Council family, Theresa leads engagement by involving the right people, at the right time, managing two-way communications to keep everyone abreast of stakeholder issues and project progression.

QUALIFICATIONS & TRAINING

- BRegPlan, Massey University

MEMBERSHIPS

- IAP2

BACKGROUND

- 2005 – owner T Walsh Consulting Ltd, Auckland
- 1997-2005: Client Director, Planning Manager, Opus International Consultants Auckland
- 1994-1996: Senior Policy Advisor, NSW Dept of Urban Affairs and Planning
- 1992-1994: Planner and Policy Planner, NSW Dept of Transport, Sydney

SPECIFIC SKILLS

- Stakeholder engagement
- Community engagement
- Relationship building
- Project Management

EXPERIENCE

Stakeholder and Engagement Lead, Waitematā Harbour Connections Project, Waka Kotahi, Nov 22 to Oct 23

The WHC project looked at providing modern, high-quality, and resilient infrastructure is crucial for a thriving Tāmaki Makaurau. The project looked at option to provide the best opportunity to do, respond to key problems such as resilience, a lack of transport choice, and future growth. Theresa was the team lead co-ordinating the stakeholder and community engagement, working with a team to work at speed and deliver innovative and robust engagement.

Engagement Lead, Te Tupu Ngātahi | Supporting Growth Alliance, At and Waka Kotahi, 2020 – 2024

The TTN Programme is a collaboration between Waka Kotahi, Auckland Transport and Auckland Council to investigate, plan and deliver the transport services needed to support Auckland's future urban growth areas over the next 30 years. Theresa is leading communications and engagement activities in the South, driving interaction and collaboration with a variety of stakeholders across a range of projects in Takanini, Pukekohe, the new Drury and Paerata stations, Mill Road and Northwest. She has designed and delivered a variety of tools and techniques to engage and inform stakeholders and the public, been involved in the Auckland Council Partnership Forum and briefed programme-wide stakeholders. Through this, Theresa has established strong connections with Local Boards and their advisors which will be of value to the consultation process.

Stakeholder and Communications Manager, Pūhoi to Warkworth, NX2, Waka Kotahi, 2017 –2022

Theresa has been involved in this high-profile project since the bid stage, planning and delivering the sod turning event with then Prime Minister John Key and acting as Stakeholder and Communications Manager though delivery. She has developed a project Stakeholder and Communications Plan, facilitated significant Iwi engagement, provided ongoing media management, and regularly reported to Waka Kotahi and the NX2 Board. Theresa has worked closely with key stakeholders and the media and provided support to the Senior Communications and Engagement Advisor, regularly reviewing, and providing input into communications and engagement activities.

Stakeholder and Communications Manager, Connected Communities, Auckland Transport, 2019 –2020

Theresa was the lead for all consortia and a member of the project leadership team for this programme of multiple business cases to improve safety and encourage modal shift to walking and cycling across the isthmus. She provided interface with Auckland Transport, guided and participated in the development of Stakeholder Engagement Plans, reviewed all deliverables, undertook engagement with key community stakeholders and developed material for local board workshops and presentations. The Stakeholder Engagement Plans she developed were held up as exemplars by the client. Theresa worked closely with the leadership team to ensure a collaborative approach.

Senior Stakeholder and Engagement Advisor, Eke Panuku, Oct 2018 -Jun 2019

Providing engagement advice and input to Transform Avondale and Transform Henderson projects. Key relationships with seven Local Boards including Waitemata providing overview and key contact for Panuku work programme.

Senior Stakeholder and Engagement Advisor, Auckland Council, Unitary Plan 2012-2015

Provided input, advice and support on various aspects of the draft Unitary Plan including 19 Local Board workshops on draft maps and provisions. Sector workshops with developers, business and other groups. Developed and managed consultative and civic forums with key stakeholders and the public. Presentations to Political Working Party, Committees, Local Boards and Advisory Panels on the draft plan.