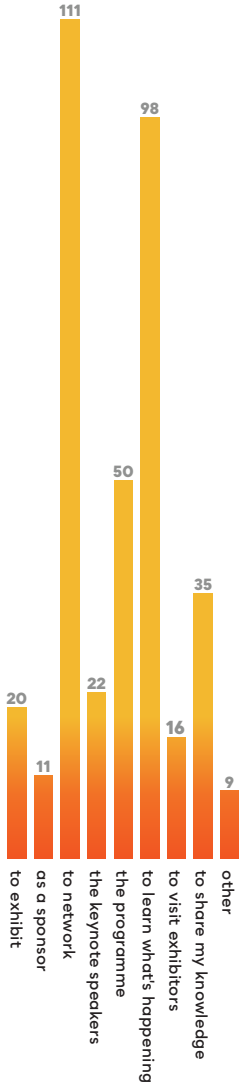


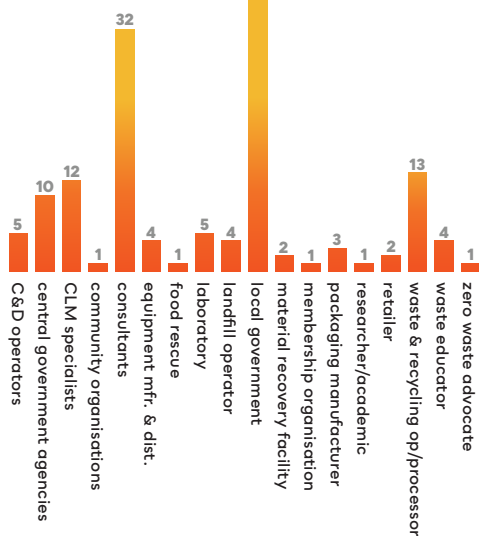
WASTEMINZ ALGA CONFERENCE 2026 SURVEY RESULTS + FEEDBACK

We asked for feedback from our 660 attendees and received approximately 148 responses

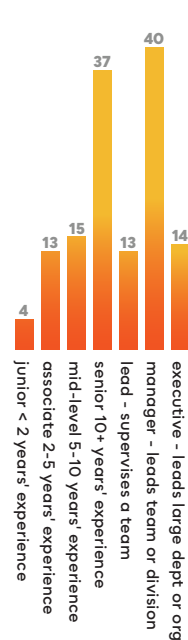
Reason for attending



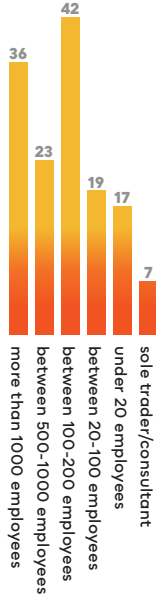
Industry



Job level



Organisation size



Stream preference



waste & resource recovery **50%**
contaminated land management **32%**
both **12%**
I'm not sure **5%**

Attendees



It was really good - well impressed. Was my first one and hope to be back next year!

First time attendee and very impressed by what was on offer and the great organisation.

Exhibitors



What should we do differently with the exhibition?



Allow for more time for attendees to visit the expo hall outside of sessions



Review app functionality and provide more instructions so more details can be captured



Provide more space in the expo hall and extra tables for eating during the breaks

Overall a positive experience.

Extremely valuable.

Sponsors



Speakers



We received numerous comments from our speakers that the AV services onsite were not up to the usual standard and the feedback monitors were difficult to read from the stage
(we are currently investigating this and will ensure it does not occur next year)

On a positive note, the speaker prep room was appreciated and well-used

WasteMINZ's organisation of sessions in advance was great. All was very well prepared.

Programme



29% said the **programme balance** between keynotes, speakers and panel discussions was great



15% responded they would like **more speakers**



5% requested **more panel discussions**



39% would like to see **more interactive sessions**



Bernard Hickey offered a frank view of the world, he didn't mince his words, and I appreciated his authentic approach.

Dr Mai Chen - so many things learned! Another inspiration.



Dr Mai Chen was awesome! I think she delivered some hard truths that we all needed to hear with the upcoming changes to local government and RMA.

Bernard Hickey's talk was exceptional and good to make us lift our heads.

Bernard Hickey. I then spent the rest of the week quoting him to other people!!

Nick Kim is a great speaker, entertaining and knowledgeable. He sure knows how to tell a story!



Nick Kim - healthy balance of opinion, technical and a splash of humour.

Workshops

Workshops on the Monday were well attended



44% went to the **TAO Forum**



31% attended **CLM and Groundwater Workshop**



10% took part in the **Emerging Professionals Workshop**



76% of attendees who attended the **post-workshop networking** event found it valuable or extremely valuable



While the feedback was generally positive, there were some requests for less content and a stronger emphasis on **collaboration and interactivity**, more **case studies** and **key takeaway learnings**

Women in the Industry Breakfast



As a new addition to the conference, many considered it to be a great initiative and would like to see it continue



71% of attendees got value out of the **panel discussion** during the session. A few suggested a shorter panel discussion to allow more time to network



Attendees appreciated the **dedicated space** for women where men were also welcome



Some felt it was a bit early and challenging to attend if travelling from out of the city

Really good way to start off the conference, and a lot of good discussion.

Great initiative and something we have not done before.

I took a lot from it, many valuable takeaways for women in business and leadership or working towards it. Bring it back next year. It was real women talk.

The breakfast session addressed an issue that we haven't talked about much in the industry. I'm looking forward to more on this.

Most outstanding sessions/speakers/panel

Waste World Tour: Snapshots

- Great to hear the variety of pilot projects and new initiatives going on around the country in one session
- I liked the snapshot presentations, they were informative and to the point, like Pecha Kucha presentations
- Relevant and informative

Product Stewardship

- Chris Gingell - good overview of what is happening with product stewardship globally
- The product stewardship session, very relevant to our work
- Pact Recycling. Excellent overall presentation. Concise content. Great speaker. Interesting and relevant content.
- Such an important topic and a good variety of talks

Political Panel

- The political panel was amazing! I really enjoyed how the session was facilitated and we got a brief insight into each party's priorities relevant to our sector.
- Was really enlightening and quite poignant, though would perhaps have worked better in a more intimate setting like a workshop
- It's great to have them all to account in front of us
- The political panel is always entertaining and enlightening - so please continue with this
- Political panel is always interesting and especially this time as it's an election year
- Nice to chat with the speakers afterward. It's cool that we have such great access to decision makers in NZ.

From Chaos to Cleanup: Emergency Waste Management

- Great speakers, good to hear MfE's latest updates around this issue
- Was really enlightening and quite poignant, though would perhaps have worked better in a more intimate setting like a workshop
- This is a very real risk for many councils and operators and presented a good overview of some of the issues to consider in planning
- Very relevant to current industry challenges
- Honest & relevant conversations about a very important topic
- Soil is such a waste issue, and this session was pitched correctly to a wide audience
- Was very interesting to hear about the ways soil is being reused, this is still a critical issue for us

CLM & Groundwater Workshop

- Found this better this year, perhaps because of ALGA joining us
- I took away some valuable insights, and it was a worthwhile topic to cover
- Overall, there was some great content and I think Simon Hunt did a good job

Mātauranga informing future management of waste & contaminants

- Really insightful and great to integrate Māori knowledge and kaupapa into how we think about managing waste and contaminated sites
- Lee Rahina-August in the closing plenary was excellent
- Lee and Stephanie - both fantastic speakers and really drove home the need for iwi engagement and Mātauranga Māori integration

Kate Fenwick - Waste-ed with Kate

- She tells it like it is and is very dynamic and passionate
- She was real, relatable and funny. Great insights from her experiences.
- Always appreciate her honesty and tangible results, also her anecdotes and engaging style
- Kate is always a winner. Her passion and dedication are commendable. Also, very humanely entertaining.

Tom Wilson - Protranz

- Great speaker, great content
- Great points made with humour
- Very entertaining and practical discussions
- Engaging and relevant contribution

Sei Brown - Localised

- His personality shone through, making it a great watch. Sharing a community recycling centre story was valuable and encouraging.
- Fantastic explanation of a Te Ao Māori framework for engaging with external partners

Stefan Borowy - Morrison Low & Associates

- Novel, but yet highly relevant - easy presentation style
- Special mention to Stefan Borowy for using humour to elevate a potentially drier topic on local government funding

Andred Saker - Hutt City Council

- Was a great speaker, he has wonderful energy and stage presence
- Good learnings on C+D waste project

Venue



The venue scored highly on **session rooms, trade expo hall, and cleanliness**
95% of attendees enjoyed **Wellington** as the conference location and 88% would recommend the city as a **future conference destination**. The main reasons were the walkability of the city, accessibility to the rest of NZ, variety of accommodation options and things to do.

WasteMINZ ALGA collaboration



59% of attendees found the **collaboration** between WasteMINZ and ALGA this year to be valuable or extremely valuable

Fantastic to finally experience this joint event being held.

So good! Let's always do joint conferences.

Fabulous collaboration, having a combined event.

I REALLY loved the collaboration this year, and I'm so thrilled it's going to continue next year. Thanks so much for making it happen!

WasteMINZ ALGA team

Excellent feedback was received on the team's communication, problem solving, customer service and event organisation

Positive attitude and support by all parties generate a successful conference.

This has to be the most professionally run conference I attend.

Very efficient and streamlined conference organisation and comms.

Amazing team - every year they raise the bar!

Congratulations, team, you always provide a warm, friendly space where nothing is a problem!

It was jam-packed! For some it was a struggle to get to everything that they wanted to see.

Conference App

This year 80% of our attendees **downloaded** the app which is a similar result to the engagement and interaction as last year

The general consensus was that this year's app was **not as 'user friendly' as last year's**. Many found the programme scheduling **challenging to navigate** between the streams and difficult to view from a phone screen.

Those who loved the app found it intuitive, easy to use and thought the gamification worked really well



52% found the app **easy to use**



39% advised they **didn't find the app easy to use**



10% **did not use it**



Of those who used the app, 84% found the information available valuable and the app useful to use for the **keynote speakers' questions**

What should we do differently next time?



Include **poster sessions** in the expo hall to encourage engagement and discussion



Increase exhibitor **engagement and networking time**



Encourage **more education** and less self-promotion within the sessions



Improve conference **app usability**



Provide some **quiet areas** for workspace and neurodiverse attendees



Include more **international examples** and insights on what is going on overseas



Increase **future-focused and inspirational content**



Reduce **programme clashes** and competing sessions (particularly keynotes)

What topics do you want to see next time?

Emergency/disaster waste (including wood waste)

Waste to energy technologies and new technologies

Illegal dumping

RMA reform

More case studies

Risk assessment

An extension of the Women in the Industry with a focus on leadership roles

Additional comments about the conference



Most attendees **appreciated the choice and diversity of topics and speakers** within the programme and often found it was **difficult to decide** which concurrent sessions to attend



A common request was to include **more time for discussion and Q&A** at the end of the sessions and allow for more **opportunities to network and engage with exhibitors**



Most attendees found value in the **networking events** and enjoyed the **gala dinner**



Feedback on the **gala dinner catering** was mixed, with the vegan and vegetarian option receiving criticism

We will work more closely with the venue and caterer to review and enhance the offerings next year to ensure they meet the same standard as other meal options

Was great to attend again after an absence of 3 years, I love the networking, the buzz, so please keep that up!

Love conference! A total highlight each year. The second-hand shop is great.

Networking is always the best thing about the conference.

Mā te mahi tahi
Driving impact through
collaboration