

# Political Acumen for Infrastructure Leaders

## Leading infrastructure effectively within the public sector system

Political acumen is a core capability for public sector infrastructure leaders. It is not about ‘playing politics’, but about understanding how government decisions are made and how to lead effectively within a complex authorising environment.

This workshop supports Project Directors, Senior Responsible Owners (SROs), and senior leaders to better navigate the political, fiscal, and institutional context that shapes infrastructure delivery in Aotearoa New Zealand.

## Who this workshop is for

This workshop is designed for:

- Project Directors leading complex or high-visibility infrastructure projects
- Senior Responsible Owners (SROs) accountable for outcomes and assurance
- Senior public sector leaders involved in delivery, governance, or oversight

It is particularly valuable for leaders who operate at the interface between delivery and political decision-making.

## What it covers

Through facilitated discussion, real-world case examples, and peer learning, participants explore:

- How decisions are made across government
- The roles of Ministers, Cabinet, Parliament, and central agencies
- The authorising environment for infrastructure projects
- Working effectively with Ministers and senior stakeholders
- Building trust and applying the ‘no surprises’ principle
- How fiscal strategy and budget cycles affect infrastructure investment

## Delivery and cost

- In-person, two-day workshop
- Currently delivered as part of a pilot
- Cost: \$495 per person + GST

## Get involved

Register your interest:

<https://forms.office.com/r/8F3BNQgSs2>