

Damien Wood, Whanganui DC

First = Graduate

NZ Certificate in Infrastructure Procurement Procedures



Feedback on completion:

1. **Please comment on the way the assessment was carried out (i.e. combination of observation on the workshop, mentoring and feedback when working through your procurement examples; written evidence; professional discussion)**

The assessments for the Procurement Qualification have all been of significant practical benefit, they have challenged my traditional way of thinking about procurement. I have enjoyed the challenge this presented and implementing the learnings into our organization.

2. **How has this helped your Council's procurement processes?**

Working through the qualification enabled me to actively participate in the review of our procurement document and present for inclusion items and processes of real benefit to both the Council and our suppliers. One of the most beneficial aspects of my learnings has been around consideration of the information request as part of the RFX documents, too often we have been guilty of asking for unnecessary information that adds no value to the evaluation process. Thanks to the qualification I am now in a position to challenge this thinking and influence change.

3. **How did your study reinforce government requirements?**

The study forced me to look into the procurement rules in greater depth and has certainly sparked an interest in both local and central government procurement processes. As a result of looking deeper I have become frustrated with some of the mixed messages presented by central government agencies.

4. **What advice/ recommendations do you have for Councils in relation to procurement, which have been highlighted by the course and your work invested in going into the qualification?**

Tender evaluation and transparent scoring of tenders is generally not well done within the industry. Documenting the process and clearly defining what constitutes a fail are areas where urgent work is required.

5. **Any other comments?**

Unlike other procurement training courses this one provides you with a real qualification that is of benefit to you, your employer, the suppliers and the community.

Damien Wood

Development Engineer – Whanganui District Council

Marion Henton, BOPRC

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1. **Please comment on the way the assessment was carried out (i.e. combination of observation on the workshop, mentoring and feedback when working through your procurement examples; written evidence; professional discussion)**

This qualification is probably some of the most useful professional development I have undertaken. The two-day workshop was condensed and full-on, however, completing the assignments post-workshop was more relaxed. The training was practical and relevant to my role as I regularly run tender processes. I was able to use my own tenders for my post-workshop qualification assignments.

The course material systematically stepped me through the stages of procurement from the initial planning, development of tender documentation, to the evaluation processes. From my perspective, working through the course guidelines/material I ended up with improved RFT/RFP documents and more streamlined evaluation processes. One aspect of the training I found particularly helpful was having my tutor Caroline available to mentor and advise when issues arose.

2. **How has this helped your Council's procurement processes?**

Councils are encouraged to keep up to date with the Government Rules of Sourcing. When staff upskill themselves (i.e. undertake the NZ procurement procedures qualification) then council's tendering processes should improve.

Tender documentation will be tailored more succinctly which will make evaluation quicker and easier. RFT/RFPs will be appropriately matched to the level of complexity, dollar value, risks/opportunities. Tenderers should be able to tell at a glance whether (or not) they have the capability/capacity to supply the goods or services. Well-crafted RFTs save everyone time and money.

Most councils are risk-averse. The training covers ethical and legal scenarios and how to reduce the risk of legal challenges.

3. **How did your study reinforce government requirements?**

I wasn't familiar with the *Government Rules of Sourcing* until I completed the procurement qualification. The resource was there but I wasn't referring to it.

4. **What advice/ recommendations do you have for Councils in relation to procurement, which have been highlighted by the course and your work invested in going into the qualification?**

I'd recommend this course/qualification to anyone working in procurement. There's not many qualifications where you get to directly apply the exercises/assignments to your day-job. This is practical, applicable learning-on-the-job.

Marion Henton

Senior Planner – Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana