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Stormwater 2026

12 – 14 May | NZICC, Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland

2026 Stormwater Innovation Award – SPEAKERS BRIEF

This year's stormwater innovation award is intended to be a celebration of innovation across Aotearoa New Zealand's Stormwater Industry.

As such we aim to be able to present as many innovations as practical in a short space of time.

The Presentation:

1. You will have **ONLY** five minutes to pitch your innovation. There will be a clock counting down to zero for you.
2. The presentation format is up to you i.e., it may be a slideshow, demonstration, or interactive session.
3. The overall event will last 45 minutes. This will include five minutes for your pitches and at least four minutes of panel-led (or audience) questions across all finalists.

Judging:

The following general themes will be used by the judges; however, it should be noted that innovations do not need to excel in all categories to be considered.

The judging criteria have been left intentionally flexible, to allow for the widest possible range of innovations to be assessed.

- a. Applicability – tested in Aotearoa New Zealand (or worldwide) and avenue/route to application in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- b. Positive impact – does the concept have a holistic impact across the industry or a game changing approach to a single element of the stormwater industry.
- c. Uniqueness – anything similar in industry from your experience/knowledge or is it a new take on an existing problem.
- d. Accessibility – What are the barriers to implementation? Cost / technical knowledge etc.
- e. Outreach and Engagement – Does the innovation have potential for reach outside of the industry? (i.e., education and engagement with the public)

4. There will be five votes for each pitch. One from each of the four panel judges, plus one from the audience (through the app).
5. The judges will rank the innovations from 1-5. So, each judge will score 5 for their view of the best based on the criteria above. The audience will just vote for their favourite innovation.
6. The overall winner will have 4 x judges votes worth 20% each and the audience vote worth 20%.
7. The winner will be the innovation with the highest score when the five votes are combined.

The Award

The winner will be announced at the Stantec Conference Dinner on **Wednesday 13 May 2026**, please make sure you or your nominated representative is registered to potentially accept your award.

Sadly, only one innovation will be selected for the overall innovation award. However, a merit may be awarded at the discretion of the judging panel.

