

Dr Abby Suszko Guest Lecture Review

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In this lecture Abby went over an introduction to the interface between Electrical and Computer Engineers and Māori. The first point covered by Dr Suszko was where might we find ourselves interacting with Māori? These are as follows:

- Where Iwi and hapū are partners
- Where Iwi and hapū are shareholders in the project/company
- Where Iwi and hapū are stakeholders in the project
- Where Iwi, hapū, Whānau, individuals and organisations are clients

We as Engineers are now finding more Iwi and Hapū in these situations as there has been a move from these people from being just land owners/leasing situations to more working directly with engineers to complete their own projects.

The next point that Abby covered was the differences in introduction and the importance of the order. With New Zealanders starting with who they are and what they do, where Māori starting with where and who they come from before moving to how they are. The second main point of difference is that concept of time where for New Zealanders the time something takes is important, but for Māori if a meeting goes over it goes over, the time is inconsequential.

Abby then moved on to several examples where partnering directly with local Iwi and Hapū has been beneficial to companies. The major example of this is Mercury where after begin receptive to input and feedback they have managed to grow their company with the support of local Iwi and Hapū. With Mercury owning and co-owning several successful power plants over mainly the North Island due to this relationship. The next example of positive outcome in interactions for an electrical engineering company was the Awarua Synergy example, this is where a local Iwi commissioned the installation of three nine metre high wind turbines to power the marae and surrounding homes. And finally, for an example of when a company refused to interact with local Iwi was when a company attempted to build a wind farm near Napier. The company was originally granted resource consent however, after refusing to speak to local Iwi about the location of the turbines the company was challenged in the environment court and lost.

Finally, the key take aways for this lecture was to engage with Māori as this can be beneficial to our company as the support can be invaluable. The next major takeaway was that when interacting we must respect the correct way of doing things and that strong communication and relations and compromise is key for everybody getting what they want.