



## Linda Te Aho

### *Enhancing Governance of freshwater - A co-management solution for the Waikato river*

Is co-governance of freshwater the 'new black' in Aotearoa-New Zealand? This presentation will highlight the importance of indigenous peoples becoming more meaningfully involved in the governance of freshwater. Linda Te Aho of Waikato-Tainui will discuss an innovative co-management solution being shaped in relation to the Waikato River. The presentation will briefly discuss issues around ownership of water and examples of co-governance and co-management models from other parts of the world.

*Linda Te Aho is of Waikato-Tainui, Ngāti Korokī Kahukura descent. Associate Dean Māori, International Director, and Senior Lecturer at the School of Law, University of Waikato, Linda's teaching and research focuses on contemporary issues in Māori Law and Society, including the sustainable development and management of Māori resources. Linda is a trustee of the Ngāti Korokī Kahukura tribal entity mandated to lead Treaty of Waitangi and environmental issues and has published a collection of the tribe's oral history. Appointed by Waikato-Tainui, Linda serves on the Guardians Establishment Committee charged with formulating a vision and strategy to restore and protect the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River. Linda has completed commissioned research for Crown agencies and government departments on topics such as relationships between tangata whenua and government agencies; freshwater for a sustainable future; climate change; the impact of amendments to the Resource Management Act upon Māori; and traditional knowledge, intellectual property and bio-prospecting.*