



# Murihiku Regeneration



RioTinto

NZAS

## INVITATION

### Energy, Infrastructure and Opportunities Wānanga

#### Identifying priority actions for our future

Murihiku Regeneration and our partners invite you to a two-day Energy, Infrastructure and Opportunities Wānanga.

Come & support regional economic development opportunities & a regenerative future for our region

Wednesday 27th - Thursday 28th May 2026

Ascot Park Hotel Conference Centre, Invercargill

Attendance by Invitation Only

RSVP [here](#) before Fri 22 May



# Leveraging our energy transition and relative strengths

Murihiku-Southland is a region blessed with resources that can and should be utilised in a regenerative way to build a strong, confident, and bold future for our community and to work in the national interest.

Our way forward must be deliberate, well-reasoned and aligned with our collective aspirations.

***We will focus on what is practical and deliverable.***

The two days will consider:

- Leveraging the energy transition - a pathway to build on a commitment from Tiwai Smelter beyond 2040
- Mitigating climate change challenges, environmental decline and the need for a regenerative view of 'sustainability'
- Research, science and innovation
- Identifying regional projects that support employment, social investment and community prosperity



# Programme

MC: Dominic Bowden

Day One: Wednesday 27 May, 8.30am – 5pm

8am	Doors Open
8.45am - 9.10am	<b>Welcome &amp; Karakia - Michael Skerrett, Murihiku Upoko</b> <b>Opening Remarks - Terry Nicholas, Hokonui Upoko</b> <b>Voice of Rangatahi - Thomas Lewis</b>
9.10am - 9.40am	<b>Session 1: The Importance of Regional Action</b> <i>Why are we here &amp; why should we care?</i>  <b>Climate Response - Building an adaptive economy</b>
9.40am - 10.10am	<b>Session 1.5: International Perspectives</b> <i>What others are seeing in the world</i>
10.10am - 10.20am	Morning Tea
10.20am - 10.55am	<b>Session 2: NZ Macro Context</b> <i>What does this mean for us?</i> <b>Keynote: David Cunliffe</b> Macro to micro, making the best of challenging times <b>Response: Mayor Ben Bell</b> How can this work at a regional & district level?
10.55am - 11.15am	<b>Session 3: The Year Ahead</b> <i>Housing &amp; Data</i>
11.15am - 12.15pm	<b>Session 4: Energy Session</b>
12.15pm - 1pm	Lunch & Cultural Performance
1.05pm - 1.35pm	<b>Session 5: Powering Up For The Future</b> <i>Update on global picture &amp; power of partnerships</i> <b>Keynote: Armando Torres, Managing Director -</b> <b>Rio Tinto Pacific Operations</b>
1.35pm - 2.05pm	<b>Session 6: Leading Innovation, Partnership &amp; Opportunities</b>

2.05pm - 2.45pm	<p><b>Session 7: Data, Innovation &amp; Growth</b> </p>
2.45pm - 3.15pm	<p><b>Session 8: Sustainable Finance &amp; Funding for Major Projects</b>  <b>Keynote: Joanne Silver,</b>  <b>Head of Sustainable Economic Development</b>   <b>Westpac New Zealand</b></p>
3.15pm - 3.30pm	Afternoon Tea/Networking
3.30pm - 4.20pm	<b>Session 9: Powering the NZ &amp; Murihiku Economy</b>
4.20pm - 4.50pm	<p><b>Session 10: Food &amp; Fibre</b>  <i>Aquaculture &amp; Agri-innovation</i></p>
4.50pm - 5pm	<b>Round Up</b>
5pm - 6.30pm	<b>Networking</b>
6.45pm	<b>Sponsors Dinner</b>

## Day Two: Thursday 28 May, 8.45am – 2pm

8.45am - 9.10am	<p><b>Opening Address</b>  <b>Professor Mike Stevens</b>  <i>A Regional Vision for the Future</i></p>
9.10am - 9.50am	<p><b>Session 2: Rio Tinto   NZAS</b>   A force for the community  <b>Keynote: Michelle Henderson, CEO</b>  Outlining the next 40 years of future Tiwai opportunities</p>
9.50am - 10.30am	<b>Session 3: Workforce Planning &amp; Pathways</b>
10.30am - 10.40am	Morning Tea
10.40am - 11.15am	<b>Session 4: Regional Infrastructure &amp; Opportunities</b>
11.15am - 11.40am	<p><b>Session 5: The Importance of Partnerships</b>  <b>Keynote: Malcolm John, CEO Genesis Energy</b> </p>
11.40am - 12.30pm	<b>Session 6: Unveiling Regional Projects Update</b>

12.30pm - 1pm	Lunch
1pm - 1.15pm	<p><b>Session 7: Maukahuka</b>  A case study for partnership &amp; success  <b>Keynote: Stephanie Rowe, Deputy Director-General, Biodiversity, Heritage and Visitors - Department of Conservation</b></p>
1.15pm - 1.40pm	<p><b>Session 8: Setting Our Regional Priorities/Opportunities</b>  Southern Mayors   Southland Business Chamber</p>
1.40pm - 2pm	<p><b>Round Up &amp; Closing Session</b>  What was agreed?</p>
2pm	<b>Karakia &amp; Close</b>

## Thanks to our sponsors

