

Q-WEST NZMTA Conference 2026

Building the Future Fleet – *Operators. Innovators. Regulators*

14 May 2026, Parliament Building, 1 Molesworth Street, Pipitea, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

Programme

8.15 am Registration and Coffee		
9.00am	Welcome and introductions	Chris Musgrave, President Margaret Wind, Executive Director
9.10am	Opening Address by the Hon James Meager in his role as Associate Minister of Transport, Minister for the South Island, Minister for Hunting and Fishing and Minister for Youth	Hon James Meager
9.25am	Introduction to the Regulatory Approach and update on latest initiatives	Kirstie Hewlett, Chief Executive & Director, Maritime New Zealand
9.45am	Q-West Boat Builders One of New Zealand's leading boat builders shares the latest updates on their exciting new build projects.	Colin Mitchell, Chief Executive Officer Chass Wardle, Operations Manager
10.15 am Morning Tea		
		With sponsorship support from GoNoGo
10.30am	The new Transport Industry Skills Board – how it works and what it means for the maritime sector	Samantha McNaughton Chief Executive, Transport Industry Skills Board
11.00am	The Transport Accident Investigation Commission run through recent findings	David Clarke, Chief Commissioner
11.30am	Industry Profile: Fullers 360 and Net Zero Maritime	Mike Horne, CEO, Fullers360 Liam Dowling, NetZero Maritime
12 noon	An update from the New Zealand cruise industry and potential for domestic tourism operators	Jacqui Lloyd, CEO, NZ Cruise Industry Association (NZCA)
12.30pm Lunch		
1.00pm	Building Financial Resilience for the Future	Chitral Wijesinha, Principal/Financial Adviser/Director Trilogy Financial Services
1.30pm	Marina and Port development update	Phil Wardale
2.00pm	New vessel contracts, Health and Safety at Work Act updates, and recent case findings	Peter Dawson, Director and Troy Stade, Associate, Dawson & Associates
2.30pm	Science, Risk and Resilience for New Zealand's Marine Sector and the role of Earth Sciences New Zealand	Earth Sciences New Zealand (NIWA)
2.55pm Afternoon Tea – All delegates will be asked to take their conference packs into the Legislative Chamber for the final session, hosted by Maritime NZ		
3.15pm	Maritime New Zealand Session	Maritime NZ
4.30pm	The new Clean Vessel Plan and biosecurity matters	Kaeden Leonard, Biosecurity Manager Marine, Northland Regional Council & Hamilsh Lass, Biosecurity Manager, Bay of Plenty Regional Council
4.50pm	NZMTA update and the year ahead (Coastal Shipping Initiative and coastal resilience fund, Seafarer Training and Qualification update)	Margaret Wind, Executive Director, NZMTA
5.10pm	Seafarer of the Year – announcing our winner	Barry Nielson, Adam Tallentire - NZMTA Vice Presidents
5:15pm	Conference Close	Chris Musgrave, President, NZMTA