

NZGW 2021 Abstract:

Theme: Mātauranga Māori (oral presentation only; no paper)

A SUPERCRITICAL JOURNEY INTO TE AO MĀORI

A. Blair¹, A. Campbell¹, M. Climo², I. Chambefort³

¹Upflow Ltd, PO Box 61, Taupo 3351, New Zealand

²Bridger Consulting, PO Box 36-118, Christchurch 8146, New Zealand

³GNS Science, Private Bag 2000, Taupo 3352, New Zealand

ABSTRACT:

More equitable partnerships are needed in Aotearoa New Zealand with Māori, to better inform decision-making and advance economic, social and environmental goals. Increasingly mātauranga Māori is being consulted, aligned with and/or brought into conversation with science. Yet, many non-Māori researchers are still uncertain how to engage with Māori. What can we do to build trust and long-term mutually beneficial relationships? How we can be good partners?

Within our geothermal community, there is a need to better connect Te Ao Māori ki te ao rangahau (the world of Māori to the world of research) to facilitate more culturally responsive and effective approaches for undertaking geothermal research and resource development.

In the *Geothermal: The Next Generation* research programme we are taking a Māori-first approach to engagement, recognising that Māori are key players in Aotearoa's next generation of geothermal development and custodians of geothermal resources. Supercritical geothermal is a long-term prospect. This means it will be future generations, particularly Māori groups with geothermal interests, who will determine the use of supercritical resources, making the decisions and leading the way.

Given the long lead times, we have a chance to do things differently — in our stakeholder engagement, research design and interweaving of knowledge systems. In this presentation, we will share our engagement approach, including some key projects, hui and wānanga, and share the feedback we have received from Māori groups, our learnings (*spoiler: we don't always get it right!*) and how our thinking has evolved. It is our hope that this presentation offers inspiration and encouragement for inter-weaving western science and mātauranga Māori, and leaves attendees feeling empowered build relationships.

Mā te kimi ka kite, Mā te kite ka mōhio, Mā te mōhio ka mārāma

Seek and discover. Discover and know. Know and become enlightened.

Keywords: *mātauranga Māori, indigenous knowledge, western science, kaupapa Māori research methodology, Taupō Volcanic Zone, Geothermal: The Next Generation (GNG), diversity in science, stakeholder engagement*