



JACOB HECHTER

G I S L E A D E R

COMPETENCIES

- Spatial Solution Design
- Information Technology (IT)
- Strategy Development
- GIS Services
- Enterprise GIS Administration
- Data Management
- Analysis & Reporting
- Project Management
- Process Design
- Team Leadership
- Coaching & Mentoring
- Regulatory Compliance

EDUCATION

Masters of Business Administration

University of Otago

Masters of Science – Geography

University of Auckland

Post Graduate Diploma in Arts – Geography (Specialisation in GIS)

University of Auckland

Bachelor of Arts – Geography & History

University of Auckland

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

A highly pragmatic, solution-focused GIS Lead who has designed, developed, and maintained robust geospatial solutions. Proven track record leading all facets of GIS projects, including strategic planning, team leadership, testing, and post-implementation maintenance. Collaborated with cross-functional teams to drive GIS solutions into broader organisational workflows and worked with regulatory bodies to drive best practices. Successfully automated processes, integrated cloud-based services, and created spatial database management solutions.

EXPERIENCE

TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL | 2024 – 2025

Project Team GIS Specialist / Sep 2024 - August 2025

Core Responsibilities:

- Design and execute enterprise GIS migration plan from on-premise to cloud
- Formulate data management and GIS administration approach
- Identify, document and migrate GIS key workflows and applications
- Design and implement automated migration processes in FME
- Maintain communication and migration planning with stakeholders across TRC to ensure project success
- Create, document, and implement continuous improvement initiatives for improved GIS administration

Key Achievements

- Successful migration and upgrade of TRC enterprise GIS environment
- Optimised cloud GIS environment for performance and remote working
- Clear, concise and future proofed GIS documentation created
- Effective stakeholder management, ensured no loss of GIS functionality during transition
- Embedded best-practice ITIL principles into TRC GIS administration

NEW PLYMOUTH DISTRICT COUNCIL | 2016 – 2024

GIS Lead / Mar 2019 – Jul 2024

Senior GIS Analyst / Aug 2016 – Mar 2019

Core Responsibilities:

- Report to the IT Manager with accountability for developing, executing, and maintaining spatial solutions for the Council.
- Lead the development and implementation of the spatial information plan and a portfolio of continuous improvement projects.
- Provide leadership to a team of 4 GIS Specialists to ensure the effective delivery of GIS services.
- Foster strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders such as government bodies, community groups and major corporations.
- Steer the development and ongoing review of technical documents, data processes and procedures.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Emergency Management: CIMS II & IV, Intermediate Certificate, CIMS Intelligence

Leadership Management Australasia Certificate

Land Surveyor in Training Certification

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Relationship Building

Communication (Verbal/Written)

Analytical | Critical Thinking

Problem-Solving

Attention to Detail

Time Management

Planning | Organisational

Emotional Intelligence

Works Well Under Pressure

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Software: ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Enterprise, ArcGIS Online, ArcGIS Portal, Survey123, ArcGIS Field Maps, ArcGIS Desktop 10x, Microsoft Office, SQL Server

Programming & Scripting: Python, FME Form, FME Flow

Field Work: Topcon Total Station, Mobile GPS Units, ArcGIS Field Maps

- Manage the design, development, and administration of geographic datasets, including on-prem and cloud-based services.

Key Achievements:

- Worked with Civil Defence to develop mapping solutions in response to COVID-19 which was published in the Harvard Journal of Public Health.
- Expanded the capability of existing GIS systems to empower decision-making.
- Appointed on several advisory boards and committees to provide advice on developing mapping best practices for emergency management.
- Reduced overhead costs across NPDC by automating public-facing and internal services through self-service solutions.
- Integrated a nation-leading GIS-driven solution district plan to improve community accessibility.
- Oversaw multiple Enterprise GIS upgrades, which reduced failures and improved overall reliability.
- Expanded the users of the GIS system from initially 10 to 50 users, which involved writing up technical guides and facilitating training.

EARLIER CAREER SNAPSHOT

RENEGADE INDUSTRIES GROUP | 2015 – 2018

Director / Dec 2015 – Dec 2018

- Established and managed a kombucha brewing operation that grew to a team of 3 and a portfolio of national accounts.
- Led the development and execution of the business plan, marketing strategy, and distribution initiatives.
- Oversaw the setup of procedures, customer relationship management (CRM) system, and distribution contracts.
- Successfully operationalised the business and set it up to a position that was ready to be handed over to the new management team.

BTW COMPANY | 2011 – AUG 2016

GIS Manager / Feb 2011 – Aug 2016

- Worked with clients to complete spatial analysis, resource assessment, environmental impact assessment, and solution design.
- Grew the initial team from one to three GIS/IT Specialist who supported both internal and client-facing projects.
- Created high-quality maps and visualisations to communicate project plans and resource assessments.
- Ensured compliance with regulatory requirements by mapping zones and land-use restrictions.

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND | 2010 – 2011

Post Graduate GIS Tutor / Jul 2010 – Jan 2011

GIS Tutor / Mar 2010 – Aug 2010

- Planned, coordinated, and facilitated lectures for tertiary-level students at the School of the Environment & Geology.
- Supported students to develop theoretical knowledge and confidence in developing spatial solutions.
- Managed all aspects relating to assessment marking and providing feedback.