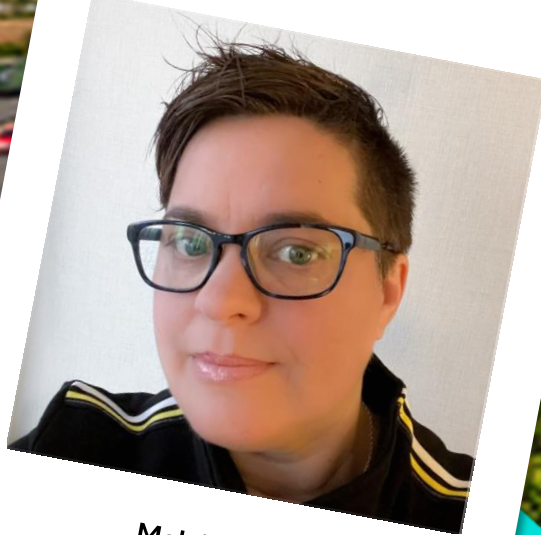


Females of the Future: International Women's Day

Meet Mel...



Mel Andrews
Digital Services Business Partner

What did you want to be when you were at school?

I didn't really know what I wanted to be at school. I knew the subjects that I enjoyed, and I followed those.

Why did you decide to do the job you are doing?

I recognised that it was time for me to stretch and challenge myself and so looked for the 'next challenge' so that I could grow in my career. For this job I looked at the opportunities to make a difference to our environment.

What did you learn at school that you have transferred into your job?

In my early career as a meteorologist, I used a lot of my maths skills, particularly.

differential equations, along with physics as we looked at modelling the atmosphere and predicting the weather. Similarly, I used these in my flood management roles. I didn't study computer science in school and instead studied various aspects during my career and use these regularly.

As much as these STEM skills have been critical, the ability to communicate and engage others in these areas is equally important.

What's been your career journey to date?

I started my career as a meteorologist working in military, media and commercial areas before moving into flood management and then crossing over into digital and technology. In my current role as a Digital Services Director National Highways, I work as a business partner, bridging the gap between engineering, business and technology with a focus on people and the benefits this can bring.

My job involves working with our wider business to understand what it is they are trying to achieve.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy the opportunity to make a difference, bringing people together from different disciplines and from that we can exploit digital, data and technology to do something better.

What career advice would you give your younger self?

Have a 'Plan A' but also be flexible and curious. I wouldn't have been able to map my career as it turned out and I learned a lot about different things through my roles so my advice is continue to learn and explore options and be open to Plan B, C or D.

