



### **Speaker Profile: Dr Val Orchard**

Val Orchard is the Research General Manager for the Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd (ESR), which is a Crown Research Institute in New Zealand, and the New Zealand technical co-ordinator for the FoodFrenz project. She has over 25 years of experience in managing complex research projects and is responsible for the delivery of short and long term research contracts in areas of food safety, water quality, communicable disease, population and environmental health and forensic science.

Val has a strong strategic focus and instigates and manages collaborations with multiple research organisations and end users. She is a microbiologist with an international reputation for research in soil science and has experience in working with government policy and regulatory agencies to ensure that scientific research is guided to achieve optimal beneficial outcomes for stakeholders. Val is also a member of the Environmental Risk Management Authority whose role is to safeguard New Zealand's future by managing the risks of hazardous substances and new organisms.