



10 January 2018

Hon Shane Jones
Minister of Infrastructure, Forestry and Regional Economic Development
Private Bag 18888
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160

By email: shane.jones@parliament.govt.nz

Tena koe Mr Jones

Congratulations on your new roles as Minister of Infrastructure, Forestry and Regional Economic Development, and Associate Minister of Finance and Transport.

We are New Zealand's professional body for engineers, with more than 20,000 members - and New Zealand's strongest and most influential voice on engineering issues.

This letter tells you who we are and what we do, and introduces some of the key engineering-related issues we see facing Aotearoa New Zealand.

We are very keen to work with you, particularly on the development of the core infrastructure required to grow the regions' economies.

WE HAVE A NEW NAME: ENGINEERING NEW ZEALAND / TE AO RANGAHAU

You might remember us as IPENZ. On 1 October 2017, we changed our name to Engineering New Zealand. Our new name explains much more clearly who we are and what we stand for (the name "Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand" remains our legal name). We were honoured to recently be gifted the name Te Ao Rangahau by Emeritus Professor Sir Tamati Muturangi Reedy. This reflects our role to explore the world around us in pursuit of solutions.

We have undertaken a significant programme of transformation in the past two years. Our new name reflects our change in strategic direction, which is based on extensive feedback from our members. They want us to deliver greater credibility, recognition, influence and connection. It's our job to bring engineering to life.

OUR NEW MEMBERSHIP PATHWAY CATERS FOR MORE ENGINEERS

On 1 October, we also launched a new Membership Pathway. This Pathway creates a professional home for engineers from all disciplines at all stages of their careers. It creates a place for senior managers, engineering geologists, academics, technicians and technologists, as well as engineering professionals from rapidly growing fields like robotics and software engineering.

The new Pathway strengthens members' credibility by requiring them to commit every year to our Code of Ethical Conduct and to carry out on-going professional development. It also provides a framework to guide the development of young engineers in the first years of their career.

WE'RE SPEAKING UP FOR ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS

Making expert voices heard

We have developed a list of experts from our technical groups who can provide media comment. Our technical experts are always available to answer any technical question you might need advice on.

Taking a stand on engineering issues that matter to New Zealanders

We've asked our members what they see as the key issues facing New Zealand that an engineering perspective is important on. We're now working with a range of stakeholders to develop a report framing these issues, recommending how they can be addressed from an engineering perspective. This will be a high impact, accessible piece of thought leadership, focused on issues including water, climate change, and seismic resilience. We'll keep you updated.

Growing the regions through smart infrastructure solutions

Engineering New Zealand supports engineers up and down the country to enable growth through resilient infrastructure networks. Rural areas face particular infrastructure challenges, often without the financial means to invest in renewals and replacement, let alone new development. The Havelock North drinking water inquiry demonstrates the problems of poor planning, ageing infrastructure and complacency. Smart transport solutions can extend beyond metropolitan areas into regions with little or no public transport network. Affordable electricity means more renewable sources at the edges of the network, such as the expansion of geothermal generation at Ngawha. We can help government invest in smart infrastructure so that it reaches the places where it is needed most, to deliver the greatest possible benefit to all communities.

WE'RE WORKING TO CHANGE THE FACE OF ENGINEERING

With the current shortage of engineers, it's crucial to grow our pipeline. It's also crucial that engineers better represent and reflect the diverse New Zealand that they serve.

Attracting children and young people

We coordinate the interactive industry initiative "Week of Engineering", which this year saw more than 5000 people through our one-day public expos and more than 700 students visiting engineering firms. Media coverage showed the programme's appeal to a diverse range of children. Our Futureintech programme, which we are currently overhauling, connects young professionals as STEM Ambassadors with schools. We are looking to extend our reach further in the regions.

Attracting Māori and Pacific Peoples

Engineering New Zealand and its members are committed to supporting the next generation of engineers to be increasingly representative of the wider population. Between 1991 and 2013, the proportion of Māori engineers increased from 4 percent to 5.5 percent of the profession and Pasifika engineers doubled from 1.2 percent to 2.4 percent of the profession. We would like to see this rate of change accelerate.

The Diversity [A]gender

We have joined forces with the New Zealand Institute of Architects and the Association of Consulting Engineers to create a programme called The Diversity [A]gender to increase the number of women in our respective professions, which we will launch next year. It includes a target, a code, resources and a public campaign. We are currently recruiting champions.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU

Thank you for this opportunity to outline our work. We would very much like to meet in person to discuss how to promote smart infrastructure solutions as well as anything else that may be helpful, including how we can best support you in your role.

Na māua noa, na



Craig Price
President



Susan Freeman-Greene
Chief Executive