



14 December 2023

Hon Melissa Lee  
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Tēnā koe Minister Lee

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO**

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Economic Development. We look forward to working with you over this term.

Engineering New Zealand is New Zealand's largest professional body for engineers, with more than 23,000 members dedicated to engineering better lives for the people of New Zealand. Engineering New Zealand also regulates the engineering profession, as the Registration Authority for Chartered Professional Engineers (Chartered Professional Engineers of New Zealand Act 2002).

Engineers are critical to New Zealand's economic development, generating approximately 5.5 percent of GDP. We estimate that there are approximately 77,000 engineers in New Zealand (3 percent of the workforce) and we need at least 2,300 each year to sustain current and projected economic growth.

New Zealand has a long history of engineering shortages, with engineers often frequenting Immigration New Zealand's long term skills shortage lists. Engineering skill shortages are set to reach critical levels soon without Government intervention. Attached to this letter is a briefing on forecasted shortages in engineering skills. Urgent intervention in our public education system is needed to ensure New Zealand can develop future talent.

As the Minister for Economic Development, we would like to speak to you about the role engineers play in the economy and options to train and retain engineers in New Zealand. With your support we can change anticipated shortfalls.

We look forward to meeting with you and are available at your convenience.

Nāku, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "R. Templer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a long, sweeping underline.

**Dr Richard Templer**

Chief Executive

Included      Engineering skills shortage briefing