



14 December 2023

Hon Chris Bishop
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160

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Tēnā koe Minister Bishop

INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT REFORM PORTFOLIOS

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for Infrastructure, Housing and Resource Management Act (RMA) Reform. 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).

Our commitment to this Government, as with previous Governments, is to support you in your portfolios as they relate to engineering and related sectors. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss priority areas. We are also available to connect you with top engineers to discuss matters of national importance.

Engineers make up approximately 20 percent of the infrastructure industry's workforce. Infrastructure planning, development and management, as well as resource management are critically important to the profession. Broadly, we support reform across your portfolio areas, recognising that our previous ways of operating are no longer fit for purpose. New Zealand faces considerable infrastructure deficits, systemic boom and bust cycles, inconsistent standards, and poor environmental and social outcomes. The Infrastructure Commission - Te Waihanga estimates that our infrastructure efficiency is in the bottom 10 percent of high-income countries.

The previous Government's reform agenda was ambitious and short lived. Although we support reform, the sequencing of reform needs careful consideration. Without starting with local government reform, reforms to three waters, resource management and the building consent

system will be inefficient and create additional bureaucratic layers in already complex systems. Included with this letter is a short statement on reform agendas.

Compounding these challenges are engineering workforce shortages, which are set to reach critical levels without Government intervention. Attached is a briefing on forecast shortages in engineering skills. Urgent intervention in our education system is needed to ensure New Zealand can develop future talent.

All the best in the new role. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss your portfolios and are available at your convenience.

Nāku, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "R. Templer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Dr Richard Templer

Chief Executive

Included	Infrastructure pipeline briefing
	Engineering skill shortage briefing
	Climate change briefing
	System reforms briefing
	Resilience briefing