



15 December 2023

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Tēnā koe Minister Brown

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY PORTFOLIOS**

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Local Government, Transport and Energy. 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 portfolio as it relates to the engineering profession and related sectors. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss priority areas. We are available to connect you with top engineers to discuss matters of national importance.

The Local Government, Transport and Energy portfolios are of significant interest to the engineering profession, with engineers working both within and closely with local councils and designing our transport and energy systems.

### **Local Government**

Engineering New Zealand supports reform to local government. Our members see firsthand the fragmentation, inefficiency and inequities present in the current system. This includes the management of the Three Waters systems. We strongly encourage the Government to review options for the management of the Three Waters system and support Water New Zealand's positions in this space. Included with this letter is a short briefing on government system reforms to local government, Three Waters, resource management and the building consent system. We would value the opportunity to talk to you about our members' views of the reforms.

## **Transport and Energy**

Our transport and energy networks are critical lifelines for New Zealand. Maintaining, protecting and adapting these lifelines will either support or hinder New Zealand's progress. Engineering New Zealand often comments on the resiliency of New Zealand's networks and our ability to support the country to meet its climate change goals and adapt to our changing world. Included with this letter is a short briefing on climate change. Also included in this letter is a briefing on transportation, provided by the Transportation Group (a technical group of Engineering New Zealand).

## **Engineering skills shortages**

For the local government, transport and energy sectors to thrive we need engineers. 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.

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

Nāku, nā



## **Dr Richard Templer**

Chief Executive

Included	System reforms briefing
	Climate change briefing
	Engineering skills shortage briefing
	Infrastructure pipeline briefing
	Transformation Group briefing