



10 March 2025

Hon Chris Bishop
Minister of Infrastructure and Transport
Parliament Buildings
Wellington, 6160

By email only: C.Bishop@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister

FOLLOW-UP TO OUR MEETING ON 27 FEBRUARY 2025

Thank you for meeting with us (Engineering New Zealand, ACE New Zealand and Civil Contractors NZ) on Thursday 27 February 2025. We really appreciate the discussion with you regarding the impact of infrastructure work being slow to get to market. This letter captures our understanding of what was agreed.

Outcomes of the meeting

The following are the key actions that you acknowledged the Government would take to urgently get approved infrastructure works started and funding flowing to support the sector.

1. Encouraging government agencies and local councils to immediately prioritise and bring forward renewal and maintenance work, particularly in relation to roading and water infrastructure investment.
2. Encouraging government agencies to break out early works packages, such as investigations and utility relocations from major projects and getting these to market quickly. This helps provide immediate work and helps to de-risk costs for the project.
3. Actively measuring project spend against the infrastructure pipeline to better understand the flow of money into the sector. This will give government and the sector visibility of what is occurring.

We have given our more detailed list of the follow-up actions to your office.

We also note that Civil Contractors asked Government to explore options to fund training to enable contracting employers to retain existing surplus capacity.

We acknowledge and support the Government's commitment to infrastructure investment and a reform programme that aims to reduce barriers to getting work started. However, as discussed, systemic change takes time. We need to move quickly to ensure we retain the skilled workers we

need to deliver your priorities and then aim to get a more visible, well signalled and consistent flow of funding in the future.

Communications

We are discussing with your office how best to address communications following our meeting. Our priority is to support you in progressing solutions to address this important issue. It is important though to signal to the industry that the Government is urgently taking steps to help address the situation which will help give them confidence to retain their most valuable asset – people.

Conclusion

Thank you for your engagement with us and your openness to further discussions on this important issue.

We would like to take you up on your offer to meet again in the coming months to discuss progress and will liaise with your office to set this up.

Ngā mihi



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Chief Executive
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Helen Davidson
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