

7 March 2024

Hon Erica Stanford
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160

Email: Erica.Stanford@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Stanford

Request to meet to discuss the engineering talent pipeline

We are pleased to see your work to strengthen New Zealand's education system. We support the Government's focus on core subjects (reading, writing and maths) and better support for teachers.

We firmly believe that focus should urgently extend to include science, technology and engineering as New Zealand is facing a critical shortage of STEM professionals. Engineering is critical to key programmes that will strengthen New Zealand's infrastructure and economy, and we are concerned these are at risk because our education system is not delivering. The system is failing to produce enough secondary graduates to fill tertiary engineering training numbers and as global markets for talent tighten, we cannot rely on immigration to fix our problems. We need to strengthen the country's primary, secondary and tertiary STEM education.

The engineering profession wants to partner with Government to support you in addressing these challenges. We work in primary schools, connecting STEM professionals with teachers and students through the Wonder Project, which builds the STEM capacity of teachers and role models STEM professions for students. We have relationships across tertiary education providers and can support joined up work to address deficiencies in core primary and secondary curriculums. We are also carrying out research into the extent of skill shortages and further options to address shortfalls.

We want to do more, but realise we need to work in partnership with Government to be effective.

Representatives of our group would like to meet with you to discuss the engineering talent pipeline and opportunities to strengthen primary and secondary STEM education. This is a matter of urgency for the long-term future of the country, and not something we can continue to neglect.

Nāku, nā

Andrew Somervell
Vice President, Products
and Technology
**Fisher and Paykel
Healthcare**

Chris Dunlop
Managing Director (Acting)
Beca

Ian Blair
Managing Director
WSP

Penny Kneebone
Chief Executive
Tonkin + Taylor

Tracey Ryan
Managing Director
Aurecon

Peter Taylor
Managing Director
Mott Macdonald

Richard Templer
Chief Executive
Engineering New Zealand

Helen Davidson
Chief Executive
ACE New Zealand

Peter Berry
Chief Executive
**Electricity Engineers
Association**

Murray Pugh
Chief Executive
Āpōpō

Rob Gaimster
Chief Executive
Concrete NZ

Alan Pollard
Chief Executive
**Civil Contractors
New Zealand**

Gillian Blythe
Chief Executive
Water New Zealand

Vicotria MacLennan
Chief Executive Officer
**IT Professionals
New Zealand**

**Fisher & Paykel
HEALTHCARE**

BECA

wsp

**TT
Tonkin+Taylor**

aurecon

**M M
MOTT
MACDONALD**

**engineering
new zealand
te ao rangahau**

ACE

**eea
Electricity Engineers'
Association**

Āpōpō

**concretenz
BUILDING RESILIENCE**

**Civil
CONTRACTORS
New Zealand**

**water
NEW ZEALAND**

**IT Professionals
NEW ZEALAND
Te Pou Hangarau Ngaio**