



14 December 2023

Hon Penny Simmonds
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Tēnā koe Minister Simmonds

ENVIRONMENT AND TERTIARY EDUCATION AND SKILLS PORTFOLIOS

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister for the Environment and Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills. It was nice to meet you on Thursday 7 December. 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 available to connect you with top engineers to discuss matters of national importance.

Climate Change

New Zealand is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Given the critical role of engineers in tackling climate change, with many solutions requiring innovative approaches, our members are committed to gaining a comprehensive understanding of the issues surrounding climate change and collaborating on effective solutions. Included with this letter is a short paper on climate change.

Resource Management

Engineering New Zealand supports reform to our resource management system. Our members see firsthand the fragmentation, inefficiency and inequities present in the current system. Included with this letter is a short paper on reforms to local government, water, resource management and the building consent system. We would value the opportunity to talk to you about our members' views of the reforms.

Tertiary Education and Skills

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.

We are worried about New Zealand's science, technology, engineering and maths education. 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. 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.

As the Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills, we would like to speak to you about the performance of our public education system and options to strengthen the system so that we are preparing the country for the skills it needs in the future. With your support we can change anticipated shortfalls.

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

Nāku, nā



Dr Richard Templer

Chief Executive

Included Climate change briefing
 System reforms briefing
 Skills shortage briefing