



15 December 2023

Hon Chris Penk  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON 6160

Email: Chris.Penk@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Penk

## **BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION PORTFOLIO**

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Building and Construction. We look forward to working with you over this term. It was a pleasure meeting on Thursday 7 December.

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).

Much of our work is focused on the building and construction industry, with engineers making up a considerable workforce within this industry. We work closely with our affiliated technical groups<sup>1</sup> and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to drive better outcomes for New Zealand.

Our commitment to this Government, as with previous Governments, is to support you in your role to lead and provide guidance to industry. 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.

We are currently actively working across the following areas within your Building and Construction portfolio:

- Review of the building consent system
- Occupational regulation of engineers
- Building for Climate Change work programme
- Seismic Risk Working Group

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<sup>1</sup> Structural Engineering Society of New Zealand, New Zealand Geotechnical Society, New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering, New Zealand Society on Large Dams, Timber Society, Electrical Engineering Group, Engineering General Practitioners and the Society of Fire Protection Engineers

- Standards development
- Implementation of the Dam (Safety) Regulations 2022

One of the ways we work with MBIE is by providing project management and technical expertise to projects of national significance.<sup>2</sup> This arrangement works well, supporting MBIE's delivery of its regulatory work programme (for example updates to the Building Code) through active engagement with engineers and end users. Engineering New Zealand is well placed to be an impartial intermediary between government and industry.

Attached to this letter are papers you may find useful to your new portfolio. We have included a report on quality issues in the building system, and briefings on the occupational regulation of engineers, resiliency, system reforms and climate change.

Regarding the occupational regulation of engineers, we understand officials have been discussing plans for a new Engineers Registration Bill with you. While we have supported this work over the last term, we are conscious that this Government has a significant work programme ahead. We welcome a chance to discuss the opportunities and risks of legislative reform. In the interim, we will be progressing work to strengthen the Chartered Professional Engineers system.

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

Nāku, nā



**Dr Richard Templer**

Chief Executive

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| Included | Quality issues in the building system report  |
|          | Occupational regulation of engineers briefing |
|          | Resilience briefing                           |
|          | System reforms briefing                       |
|          | Climate change briefing                       |
|          | Engineering skill shortage briefing           |

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<sup>2</sup> Further information on our Sector Programme work can be found on our website - <https://www.engineeringnz.org/programmes/sector-programmes/>