

HERITAGE STRATEGY 2025-27.

The Engineering Heritage Board provides support and strategic direction to Engineering New Zealand's heritage work programme. This document outlines the Engineering New Zealand Heritage Board's strategy for 2025 and beyond.

The ambitions of the Engineering Heritage Board are to:

- Tell diverse engineering heritage stories
- Advocate for the protection and preservation of our engineering heritage
- Care for our institutional history.

The Board also aspires to:

- Support engineers to deliver the best outcomes for built, environmental and cultural heritage through their professional practice

This strategy describes these ambitions in more detail and lists priority outcomes and measures. Detail on individual projects is given in annual work plans.

INTRODUCTION TO HERITAGE

The whakatauki 'ka mua, ka muri', describes a person walking backwards into the future, visually illustrating the concept that we look to the past to inform our onwards journey.

Heritage is essential to our sense of place, identity and wellbeing. Heritage is not simply the physical remains of the past, but a living practice in the present. Our performances of heritage reveal our values. The stories we tell about ourselves and others embed how we see ourselves and our place in the world and how we see and place others. Seeing ourselves represented and having control of our own narratives is important. How we perform heritage matters.

For the engineering profession, an understanding of heritage is important. Engineering has the power to shape our lives, how we live, travel and communicate. Engineers have a responsibility to design and deliver projects that are informed by critical reflection on our past, an awareness of what shapes our current thinking and an acknowledgement of our built, natural and cultural heritage values.

The practice and performance of engineering heritage supports Engineering New Zealand's mission of bringing engineering to life – to engineer better lives for New Zealanders.

ENGINEERING NEW ZEALAND STRATEGY 2024–2027¹

**WE'RE BRINGING ENGINEERING TO LIFE
TO ENGINEER BETTER LIVES FOR NEW ZEALANDERS**

Mission

To support and add value to our members, partners and the profession while advancing engineering.

OUR AMBITIONS FOR ENGINEERING HERITAGE

Our ambitions capture our long-term aspirations for what we want to achieve.

TELL DIVERSE ENGINEERING HERITAGE STORIES

- The stories we tell about engineering heritage are diverse and relatable for everyone. We understand our audiences and work with others to tell these stories.
- The stories we tell celebrate the creativity and skill of our engineers and enhance public recognition of the work engineers do, both currently and in the past.
- Our heritage content grows awareness of past engineering practice. We learn from the past and use this knowledge to inform our future.

ADVOCATE FOR THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF OUR ENGINEERING HERITAGE

- Our Register and Records are a respected source of information about engineering heritage and an effective advocacy tool. We work with Heritage New Zealand and local councils to formalise recognition and protection of our most significant engineering heritage places.

CARE FOR OUR INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

- We collect and care for our institutional history and biographical information about our members.

Future ambition

To date, the Engineering Heritage Board has been focused on telling engineering heritage stories and using these to advocate for the protection of our most significant engineering heritage places. There is also an opportunity to protect heritage places by supporting our members' work on heritage issues. Many heritage structures are lost to demolition, or demolition by neglect due to seismic issues, particularly in the aftermath of natural disaster.

¹ www.engineeringnz.org/about/what-we-do/

There is work to do to:

- advocate to government for greater inclusion of heritage in disaster planning
- connect with our members who work with heritage to inform our advocacy on Government reform such as the redevelopment of resource management legislative regime
- use our storytelling channels to promote heritage work our members are involved in – growing members' interest in developing this skillset and awareness of built, natural and cultural heritage values in their work.

It would also be valuable to stay connected with the Heritage Special Interest Group and have an understanding of and input to the projects they are working on.

[The Heritage Group](#) is a Special Interest Group of Engineering New Zealand. The group is made up of engineers and professionals in adjacent sectors who work with heritage structures, sites, and values. The group supports members in their engineering heritage practice and aims to build skills and connections across the heritage sector.

The following ambition is aspirational and would best be achieved in collaboration with the Heritage Special Interest Group. We:

- Support engineers to deliver the best outcomes for built, environmental and cultural heritage through their professional practice
- Support our members to advocate for and to be strong kaitiaki of our built, natural and cultural heritage in their engineering practice
- Support our members to connect with others across the heritage sector and to build their skills.

Delivery

The Engineering Heritage Board is supported in its work by four regional [Heritage Chapters](#). Chapter members are volunteers with a passion for heritage who give their time to Chapters undertake local projects and advocacy for engineering heritage in their region in line with the Heritage Strategy and annual workplan.

Chapters are encouraged to, where appropriate, collaborate with local Engineering New Zealand Branch groups and other relevant technical and special interest groups.

Engineering New Zealand's Heritage Advisor supports the Engineering Heritage Board, Chapters and Heritage Special Interest Group, delivers projects on the work plan and oversight of the heritage programme.

STRATEGY MEASURES

Priority Outcomes	Measures
Increased diversity in our online heritage content	• New engineering heritage Register / Record / Biography entries completed for those currently underrepresented.
Our heritage content reaches a wide audience	• Webpage visits are steady or increasing. • Click-throughs on heritage stories promoted in Discover remain high. • Walking tour app downloads are maintained and peak following promotion. • Heritage events are well attended. • Heritage receives a positive mention in the annual member survey.
Our online content is authoritative and up to date	• New, well-researched items are added to our Heritage Register. • Programme to check and update Record entries completed.
Our Heritage Chapters are supported and thriving	• Chapter membership is stable or increasing.
Workplan completion	• A workplan will be maintained to deliver on this strategy and is actioned on time and budget, as per Board's agreed workplan.

REVIEW

The Strategy is reviewed every three years, or earlier if requested by the Engineering Heritage Board.

APPENDIX

Collaboration with partners

Protecting New Zealand's heritage is a shared responsibility. We have common interests and overlaps with a wide range of partners.

Engineering New Zealand needs to collaborate with partners to identify, protect, preserve, and conserve engineering heritage sites and projects, to provide information and interpretation, to obtain and provide specialist advice, to profile and advocate for engineering heritage, and to locate funding for initiatives.

The following organisations are our partners and have key roles in helping to implementing this Strategy:

- The **Ministry for Culture & Heritage**, which aims to protect and promote New Zealand's heritage. The Ministry regulates the trade and export of protected objects, protects symbols of national identity, helps art galleries and museums host touring exhibitions, maintains national monuments (both here and overseas) and manages memorial projects, such as the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior.
- **Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga** is the guardian of New Zealand's historic heritage. It works with the community, owners of listed heritage buildings, structures and sites, and local and national bodies to manage New Zealand's cultural heritage.
- The **Department of Conservation**, whose mission is to conserve New Zealand's natural and historic heritage for all to enjoy now and in the future. DOC achieves this by maintaining, conserving and promoting natural and historic heritage within the DOC estate.
- **Local Authorities**, which have roles under the Resource Management Act, Local Government Act, and the Building Act to recognise and protect historic heritage.
- The **New Zealand Archaeological Association** promotes and fosters research into New Zealand archaeology and is active in lobbying Government and Local Government for the protection of New Zealand's cultural heritage. It runs a national Site Recording Scheme, which contains the records of over 50,000 archaeological sites for the purpose of research and protection of the sites.
- **Archives New Zealand** which is the guardian of New Zealand's public archives. It gathers, stores and protects a wide range of material including documents, maps, plans, paintings, photographs and film, and ensures records of long-term value are kept permanently and are accessible.
- **Owners of major infrastructure assets** including state owned enterprises such as Transpower, Meridian Energy, Mighty River Power, Genesis Energy, KiwiRail; Crown entities, including the New Zealand Transport Agency and Housing New Zealand; private companies, such as Contact Energy, Spark, New Zealand Post, electricity lines businesses, gas distribution companies, private companies and other owners of engineering heritage sites; major public and private engineering collections, such as those held at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, the Alexander Turnbull Library, Museum of Transport and Technology and Ferryhead Heritage Park.

Heritage definitions and legal frameworks

Various pieces of legislation (see appendix) govern the recognition and protection of heritage and give effect to the Treaty of Waitangi. This legal context touches engineers' work in many sectors.

In New Zealand the following legislation relates to heritage:

- The **Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014** aims to promote the identification, protection, preservation, and conservation of New Zealand's historical and cultural heritage. Under this Act HNZPT is to maintain the New Zealand Heritage List/Rāangi Kōrero (the List) of historic places, historic areas, wāhi tapu, wāhi tapu areas and wāhi tūpuna. This List is to be used to inform the public (including owners and local authorities) and can lead to the protection of heritage entered on the List.
- The **Resource Management Act 1991** (RMA) requires local authorities to recognise and protect historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use and development, and take the List into account. This Act also empowers local authorities to act as heritage protection agencies.
- Resource Management Act defines historic heritage as "those natural and physical resources that contribute to an understanding and appreciation of New Zealand's history and cultures, deriving from any of the following qualities: archaeological, architectural, cultural, historic, scientific or technological."
- The **Local Government Act 2002** (LGA) requires local authorities to prepare long term council community plans and district or city plans. These plans can consider heritage aspects in the district or city.
- The **Building Act 2004** (BA) governs all buildings and structures. In relation to heritage, the Act requires local authorities to facilitate the preservation of buildings of significant cultural, historical, or heritage value. In addition, a local authority has to adopt policy on dangerous, earthquake-prone and insanitary buildings and consider how the policy will apply to heritage buildings.
- The **Conservation Act 1987** established the Department of Conservation (DOC) to (amongst other things) manage land and other natural and historic resources.
- The **Public Records Act 2005** aims to enhance the accessibility of records that are relevant to New Zealand's historical and cultural heritage and to New Zealanders' sense of national identity.

Geographical areas

Each Heritage Chapter covers the following regions. Chapters are encouraged to manage Heritage Record / Register entries in their region and, where opportunity arises, to connect with local Branches.

AUCKLAND CHAPTER

- Auckland
- Waikato
- Bay of Plenty
- East Coast

WELLINGTON CHAPTER

- Hawkes Bay
- Taranaki
- Whanganu
- Manawatū
- Wellington

CANTERBURY CHAPTER

- Nelson-Marlborough
- Canterbury
- South Canterbury
- West Coast

DUNEDIN CHAPTER

- Otago
- Central Otago
- Dunedin
- Southland