briefing for meeting with Minister Shaw

## 23 April 2018

1. Engineers are central to mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change. Engineering New Zealand plays a leading role in the engineering profession and industry. We want to work closely with Government to make rapid and enduring progress.

* We have over 20,000 members and play a lead role in the Engineering Leadership Forum which represents over 30,000 professional engineers.[[1]](#footnote-1) We also work closely with industry associations and lobby groups, such as Infrastructure New Zealand.
* Our members want us to prioritise action on climate change with Government support. They feel that the engineering voice can make a strong contribution to a more resilient and sustainable New Zealand.
* A key part in this is the replacement of infrastructure to build the economy of the future, including a Smart Electricity Grid. Our members will be designing much of that infrastructure.
* The education, guidance and professional leadership that engineers receive will be critical. We need to up our game if we are to build in resilience. Government support and encouragement is needed to meet the expectations of our profession in responding to climate change.

1. Our letter to the Minster describes some of the transformation we have undergone as a professional body to bring engineering to life and lead the future of engineering. For example:

* In 2016 we updated our [Code of Ethical Conduct](https://www.engineeringnz.org/resources/code-ethical-conduct/) putting environmental and ecological responsibility at the centre. Our engineers must:

“**Have regard to effects on environment**

* 1. i. have regard to reasonably foreseeable effects on the environment from those activities; and
  2. ii. have regard to the need for sustainable management of the environment. In this rule, sustainable management means management that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations (including at least the future generations within the anticipated lifetime of the end products and by-products of those activities) to meet their own reasonably foreseeable needs."
* This month we launched the [Diversity Agenda](https://diversityagenda.org), a collaboration between Engineering New Zealand, the New Zealand Institute of Architects (NZIA) and the Association of Consulting Engineers (ACENZ). It is a commitment to diversity and inclusion, with an initial focus on women. We have set the goal of getting 20 percent more women in engineering and architecture by 2021.

1. Engineers are a critical voice in climate change and sustainability. We welcome any opportunity to help progress the Government’s goals in this area. For example:

* We appreciate the appointment of two of our members to the Climate Change Commission Interim Committee. Dr David Prentice is one of our Fellows and Dr Keith Turner is a Distinguished Fellow. We will be supporting them in their contributions.
* The Minister’s recent speech referred to Victoria University’s Faculty of Engineering offering new degrees in sustainable energy systems. Professor Alan Brent Programme Director—Renewable Energy Systems Engineering is a Chartered Member and plays a leading role in one of our technical interest groups, the [Sustainability Society](http://www.thesustainabilitysociety.org.nz/). This is just one of our 17 technical groups and societies.

1. We are working with our members and supporting key stakeholders to provide expert advice to government. As our next step:

* On Thursday 16th August 2018 we are launching our thought leadership publication *Engineering a Better New Zealand.* The launch is at 4pm at the Legislative Council Chamber. We very much hope that the Minister may be able to attend (and possibly speak at) the launch.
* The publication will look at seismic, water and climate change resilience. Our workshops on each issue have included NZ’s leading experts - engineers, scientists and public policy experts.
* Our host is Minister Salesa. We are a trusted partner to MBIE working with our members and officials. As a result, we can more clearly and consistently communicate about risk and uncertainly when presenting realistic options to the public and industry.

## Recommendations

* We intend to be fully engaged in applying the collective knowledge of the engineering profession to meet the complex challenges that climate change presents. We ask for the support of the Minister to work as partners with officials and the Climate Change Commission Interim Committee to create a net carbon free New Zealand economy.
* We suggest that one of the next steps for the Minister and the emergent Climate Change Commission is to deepen collaborative relationships across the local and central Government and industry to advance economic and environmental success. We would like to discuss with the Minister how we can be a catalyst for and help to coordinate the engagement of our engineers.

1. The Engineering Leadership Forum comprises the CEOs of New Zealand’s professional engineering associations, including Engineering New Zealand, the Association of Consulting Engineers New Zealand, Water New Zealand, Civil Contractors New Zealand, the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (New Zealand Division), the Electricity Engineers’ Association and the Concrete NZ. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)