

11 May 2018

Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Minister for Local government
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

By email: n.mahuta@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Mrs Mahuta

We are New Zealand's professional body for engineers, with more than 20,000 members - and New Zealand's strongest and most influential voice on engineering issues.

Thank you for your letter dated 4 May that responded to our approach, together with Water New Zealand and Infrastructure New Zealand, seeking leadership on water issues.

We are very keen to work with you, particularly on the water quality and infrastructure issues our sector's grappling with, and would appreciate the chance to meet as soon as possible.

WE HAVE A NEW NAME: ENGINEERING NEW ZEALAND

You might remember us as IPENZ. On 1 October 2017, we changed our name to Engineering New Zealand. Our new name explains much more clearly who we are and what we stand for (the name "Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand" remains our legal name).

We have undertaken a significant programme of transformation in the past three years. Our new name reflects our change in strategic direction, which is based on extensive feedback from our members. They want us to deliver greater credibility, recognition, influence and connection. It's our job to bring engineering to life.

OUR NEW MEMBERSHIP PATHWAY CATERS FOR MORE ENGINEERS

On 1 October, we also launched a new Membership Pathway. This Pathway creates a professional home for engineers from all disciplines at all stages of their careers.

The new Pathway strengthens members' credibility by requiring them to commit every year to our Code of Ethical Conduct and to carry out on-going professional development. It also provides a framework to guide the development of young engineers in the first years of their career.

WE SUPPORT OCCUPATIONAL LICENCING FOR SAFETY-CRITICAL WORK

We strongly support the work MBIE has been doing towards task-based licensing for safety-critical work. This grew out of the Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission's recommendations.

We want to see any licensing regime extend to cover all safety-critical areas, not just the building-related areas that MBIE has identified. Other safety critical areas of engineering include, for example, drinking water and dams.

WE'RE SPEAKING UP FOR ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS

We've asked our members what they see as the key issues facing New Zealand that an engineering perspective is important on. We're now working with stakeholders to develop a report framing these issues, recommending how they can be addressed from an engineering perspective. This will be a high impact, accessible piece of thought leadership, focused on water, climate change, and seismic resilience.

Our report 'Engineering a Better New Zealand' will be launched by Building and Construction Minister Salesa on 16 August 2018 at the Legislative Council Chamber at 4pm, and we invite you to attend.

WE WANT TO WORK CLOSELY WITH YOU ON THE THREE WATERS REVIEW

Our water stakeholders have identified a wide range of issues, including those you mention in your letter. We consider that aggregation is necessary to increase sector capability. The status quo has not delivered the best outcomes for all New Zealanders. However, our focus is on the best engineering options rather than on structural reform.

We agree that a broader three waters perspective is needed. We aspire to outcomes that exceed regulatory compliance to minimum standards. We represent engineers working in the field, including in local government and industry, who want to improve social, economic, environmental, and cultural outcomes for all.

WE'RE WORKING TO CHANGE THE FACE OF ENGINEERING

With the current shortage of engineers, it's crucial to grow our pipeline. It's also crucial that engineers better represent and reflect the diverse New Zealand that they serve.

On 11 April we launched the Diversity Agenda to drive change in New Zealand's engineering and architecture firms. It started as a partnership between Engineering New Zealand, the New Zealand Institute of Architects and ACENZ – and more than 50 firms have already come on board.

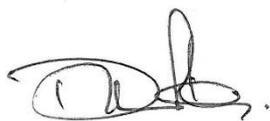
Our goal is to get 20 percent more women in engineering and architecture roles by 2021.

We are looking ahead to create initiatives to increase the number of Māori engineers from 5.5 percent of the profession, and Pasifika from 2.4 percent.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU

Thank you for this opportunity to outline our work. We would very much like to meet in person to discuss how we can best support the Three Waters Review and anything else that would be helpful.

Na māua noa, na



Dean Kimpton
President



Susan Freeman-Greene
Chief Executive