

10 September 2018

Hon Andrew Bayly MP
Spokesperson for Building and Construction
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

By email: andrew.bayly@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Mr Bayly

We are New Zealand's professional body for engineers, with more than 22,000 members - and New Zealand's strongest and most influential voice on engineering issues.

We are very keen to work with you, particularly on the building 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 2017, 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 LICENSING FOR SAFETY-CRITICAL WORK

We are working with MBIE 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 RAISING THE BAR FOR ENGINEERS

We have several initiatives underway to lift the quality of engineering work across the system:

We've made changes in response to the collapse of the CTV building

Our complaints process is now more robust, transparent and fair

As a profession, engineers have set themselves standards. Our complaints process is about upholding those standards. It's focused on resolving complaints, appropriate accountability, quality improvement and learning. If anyone raises a concern about a member, then we take this seriously.

We updated our Code of Ethical Conduct

As recommended by the Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission, we have revised our Code of Ethical Conduct in relation to reporting risks to public health and safety.

Under our new Code of Ethical Conduct, Engineers have an obligation to report potential adverse consequences for people's health and safety and for the environment. This means that they must take action if they observe something of concern. And if an engineer suspects another engineer has significantly breached the Code, they must report this.

Engineers can no longer resign to avoid our disciplinary process

We have changed our rules so that engineers cannot resign to avoid a potential complaint.

Reconciling differing seismic assessments of the same building

We know it can be hard for building owners and the public to understand why the same building has multiple seismic assessments showing differing results. While engineering assessments have a degree of subjectivity, any differences between them should be reasonable and justified. Engineering New Zealand has developed a programme that provides independent facilitation, so engineers can work together towards a narrower assessment rating.

WE'RE SPEAKING UP FOR A BETTER NEW ZEALAND

We've asked our members what they see as the key issues facing New Zealand that an engineering perspective is important on. Our first report *Engineering a Better New Zealand* was launched in August. This is the start of our thought leadership programme and we look forward to continuing and broadening it with members' help. Our next piece of thought leadership will focus on clean energy.

Engineering a Better New Zealand sets out an expert engineering vision for a healthier, more prosperous New Zealand - and the steps we must take together to get there. It's a report that pulls together an expert engineering view on two key challenges facing New Zealand: seismic resilience and water. We make seven recommendations, several of which are relevant to building and construction:

- Reset the levels of risk we can tolerate and regulate accordingly
- Plug the regulatory gap concerning existing buildings
- Make infrastructure resilience a collective responsibility
- Fix our broken drinking-water system

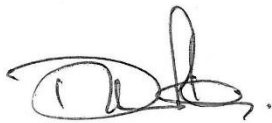
- Make hard choices now about unsustainable locations
- Enable the community to value water (in all its forms)
- Commit to real-time monitoring and reporting of water quality.

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 these issues and anything else that would be helpful.

Our engineers are ready to response to any disaster – as they always have been. They were on the streets soon after midnight on 14 November 2016, in the same way they were after the Canterbury earthquakes. Their first priority is public safety and they are dedicated to their work. It's a privilege to represent them.

Na māua noa, na



Dean Kimpton
President



Susan Freeman-Greene
Chief Executive