

7 March 2024

Hon Erica Stanford  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON 6160

Email: [Erica.Stanford@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Erica.Stanford@parliament.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe Minister Stanford

### Request to meet to discuss the engineering talent pipeline

We are pleased to see your work to strengthen New Zealand's education system. We support the Government's focus on core subjects (reading, writing and maths) and better support for teachers.

We firmly believe that focus should urgently extend to include science, technology and engineering as New Zealand is facing a critical shortage of STEM professionals. Engineering is critical to key programmes that will strengthen New Zealand's infrastructure and economy, and we are concerned these are at risk because our education system is not delivering. The system is failing to produce enough secondary graduates to fill tertiary engineering training numbers and as global markets for talent tighten, we cannot rely on immigration to fix our problems. We need to strengthen the country's primary, secondary and tertiary STEM education.

The engineering profession wants to partner with Government to support you in addressing these challenges. We work in primary schools, connecting STEM professionals with teachers and students through the Wonder Project, which builds the STEM capacity of teachers and role models STEM professions for students. We have relationships across tertiary education providers and can support joined up work to address deficiencies in core primary and secondary curriculums. We are also carrying out research into the extent of skill shortages and further options to address shortfalls.

We want to do more, but realise we need to work in partnership with Government to be effective.

Representatives of our group would like to meet with you to discuss the engineering talent pipeline and opportunities to strengthen primary and secondary STEM education. This is a matter of urgency for the long-term future of the country, and not something we can continue to neglect.

Nāku, nā

Andrew Somervell  
Vice President, Products  
and Technology  
**Fisher and Paykel  
Healthcare**

Chris Dunlop  
Managing Director (Acting)  
**Beca**

Ian Blair  
Managing Director  
**WSP**

Penny Kneebone  
Chief Executive  
**Tonkin + Taylor**

Tracey Ryan  
Managing Director  
**Aurecon**

Peter Taylor  
Managing Director  
**Mott Macdonald**

Richard Templer  
Chief Executive  
**Engineering New Zealand**

Helen Davidson  
Chief Executive  
**ACE New Zealand**

Peter Berry  
Chief Executive  
**Electricity Engineers  
Association**

Murray Pugh  
Chief Executive  
**Āpōpō**

Rob Gaimster  
Chief Executive  
**Concrete NZ**

Alan Pollard  
Chief Executive  
**Civil Contractors  
New Zealand**

Gillian Blythe  
Chief Executive  
**Water New Zealand**

Victoria MacLennan  
Chief Executive Officer  
**IT Professionals  
New Zealand**

**Fisher & Paykel  
HEALTHCARE**

**BECA**

**wsp**

**TT  
Tonkin+Taylor**

**aurecon**

**M M  
MOTT  
MACDONALD**

**engineering  
new zealand  
te ao rangahau**

**ACE**

**eea  
Electricity Engineers'  
Association**

**Āpōpō**

**concretenz  
BUILDING RESILIENCE**

**Civil  
CONTRACTORS  
New Zealand**

**water  
NEW ZEALAND**

**IT Professionals  
NEW ZEALAND  
Te Pou Hangarau Ngaio**