

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT 20/21

Kia ora koutou,

The year to 30 September 2021 saw a number of significant developments, some of which have the potential to impact how Engineering New Zealand best meet the needs of the profession. Three worth signalling here are occupational regulation, our governance review, and developing a responsive and relevant climate change programme.

OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION

In May 2021, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment released new proposals for occupational regulation. These proposals see registration for all practicing engineers become mandatory as a basic mark of professionalism. A further component is the licencing of high-risk disciplines for which there would be competency assessments. Ideally, we would also like to see protection of title for engineers holding a four-year Washington Accord degree or equivalent, as well as for engineering technicians, engineering technologists and engineering geologists.

I was thrilled to see so many of you engage with Engineering New Zealand's consultation and make submissions to the Ministry. My view is that occupational regulation is good for the profession and the public, and I was encouraged by the Ministry's most recent proposals. While I know any regulatory change will take time, Engineering New Zealand is committed to working with you and government to resolve details constructively so that New Zealand benefits from a strengthened regulatory system.

GOVERNANCE REVIEW

We laid the foundations for our Governance Review. This was supposed to follow our Rules Review in 2018 but was deferred when Covid-19 and proposals for occupational regulation came to the fore.

The Governance Review looks at whether the Board truly represents the communities we serve, including gender, region, disciplines, and ethnicities. Increasing the organisation's and profession's competence in te ao Māori is also a goal. We have established a Māori Advisory Group and have recently appointed a Board member with capability in te ao Māori.

I'm mindful the Board needs to have the right skills, capabilities, and operating procedures to maintain your confidence in our governance. I'm also acutely aware the Board are volunteers and each member contributes a considerable amount of their time to the role. The Governance Review will look at whether a modest compensation for Board members is necessary and appropriate.

As both a professional organisation and registration authority, Engineering New Zealand advocates for its members but also hold engineers to account where required. Given these competing interests, we have taken steps to separate the governance of the registration authority from that of Engineering New Zealand, with the creation of a new Chartered Professional Engineers Board.

CLIMATE ACTION

Many of you have been calling for Engineering New Zealand to show greater leadership when it comes to climate action.

In 2021 we laid the groundwork for our Engineering Climate Action programme, which launched in November. In the months leading up to the launch we spoke with branch chairs, young engineer chairs and group committee members to get their thoughts on what the programme might deliver – we're very aware that any new programme in this area needs to add real value to the engineering profession. Many of you helped us identify and develop tools and resources for when we launched our [Engineering Climate Action website](#).

At the launch we issued our Climate Action Position Statement clearly stating our position, "The time for action is now. We need engineers to be climate action leaders. Engineers have a vital role and responsibility in mitigating, transitioning, and adapting to climate change". As engineers, we have a key role in shaping and supporting our society, so we can face into the significant impacts of climate change.

Ekos undertook the first ever carbon measurement of Engineering New Zealand's business operations including electricity, purchased goods and services, fuel and energy, upstream freight, waste, travel and commuting, and end of life disposal of product. This gave us a baseline figure of 192 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. Our task now is to look to ways to reduce this to lessen the impact of operations, from procurement to disposal.

Like so many of you, I'm really excited about the programme you'll see. In 2022 this will include webinars with experts, discussion sessions, case studies, practice notes, as well as sector-specific resources. Ultimately, our goal is to help engineers lead the way to a healthier, sustainable Aotearoa.

I want to thank all members for their commitment to our great organisation through the year. My thanks also to your Board for supporting me since I took up the position of President in April.

Ngā mihi
Prof. Rosalind Archer
President