



Engineers New Zealand

## PRESS RELEASE

SUBJECT: CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS OF NEW ZEALAND ACT 2002

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The completion of the Third Reading of the Chartered Professional Engineers of New Zealand Act 2002 last night establishes a new standard of competence in a profession intimately concerned with maintaining public safety.

The Act replaces the 1924 Engineers Registration Act, and allows professional engineers who meet modern engineering competence standards to be registered as Chartered Professional Engineers. Chief Executive of the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (IPENZ), Dr Andrew Cleland is confident that the public will soon see benefits.

"Whereas under the old Act there was no requirement for engineers to demonstrate their retention of competence the public can be assured that every engineer we register has demonstrated recently to their peers in the profession that they have the necessary skills and knowledge to perform competently. We will also be operating complaints procedures to assist purchasers of professional engineering services who feel that they did not receive work of good standard" he said.

The new Act largely aligns the statutory registration system with the systems already put into place voluntarily by IPENZ for designating its own competence-based membership classes. This is pleasing.

The standards against which engineers will have their competence assessed will be benchmarked to international best-practice in engineering, and a Chartered Professional Engineers Council is created to provide auditing of the registration system. A purchaser of professional engineering services will be able to expect consistently high quality advice. The general public, as users of a wide variety of services for which reliability is essential, can be confident that the issue of protection of people has been well-considered.

"As the long-standing professional body for engineers in New Zealand we are pleased to accept the responsibility for ensuring high standards are maintained by the profession", Dr Cleland said.

Professional Engineers may start applying for registration in January 2003. At the end of December 2003 the old registration system created under the 1924 Act will be totally closed.

Dr Cleland said "At that time all regulatory authorities seeking to identify people with the skills and knowledge who can perform high quality engineering work or certification reliably will be able to turn to Chartered Professional Engineers".

It is expected that several thousand experienced engineers will seek to register within the first year, with others registering in future years as they meet the competence standards for the first time.

For further information, contact Dr Andrew Cleland, CEO, IPENZ - Engineers New Zealand, on (025) 274 3555 or Jeff Wastney, Professional Practice Manager, IPENZ - Engineers New Zealand, on (04) 474 8983.