



GCCRS Engineering Advisory Group
An independent committee convened by
Engineering New Zealand to support the GCCRS

SUBJECT	Meeting Minutes – 12 April 2019
PRESENT	Tania Williams (Co-Chair ENZ), Helen Davidson (Co-Chair ENZ), David Whittaker (NZSEE), Barry Brown (SESOC), Tony Fairclough (NZGS)
IN ATTENDANCE	Darren Wright (Director, GCCRS) Miriam Dean (Chair GCCRS Legal Advisory Group), John Hardie (Legal Advisor GCCRS) Dave Brunson (Consultant ENZ), Madison Dobie (Legal Advisor ENZ)
APOLOGIES	

1. Welcome

Some items were discussed out of order.

1.1 Conflicts of Interest

One matter was noted.

1.2 Minutes and Actions

1. Previous minutes from the Engineering Advisory Group meeting of 25 February were accepted by members.
2. Actions from the previous meeting were discussed and progress noted, including discussions between the EAG and LAG on legal and regulatory issues.

2. Operational Updates

2.1 GCCRS Operational Update

1. A GCCRS operational service update was presented.
2. Claim numbers are higher in complexity and volume than expected. Key engineering issues relate primarily to foundations, and quality of repair and repair process.
3. 54 cases have been submitted to the expert engineering panel and 22 cases completed. Opportunities to streamline the timeframe between referral and assignment to a panel member were discussed, and positive feedback was provided on facilitator engagements with homeowners.

2.2 Panel Update

1. Demand for the expert engineering panel remains high and feedback continues to be positive.
2. Opportunities to further refine the panel's processes were discussed, including making any recommendations for next steps clearer.
3. The impact of the Insurance Tribunal and panel demand was discussed. Engineering New Zealand confirmed its intention to run a further procurement process to increase the number of structural engineers on the panel.
4. There was a discussion about the need to identify themes arising from panel work to use for quality improvement purposes.

3. Engineering Issues

3.1 Debrief on David Brigg's discussion

1. Expert international structural forensic engineer recently met with members of the engineering panel and EAG.
2. The discussion highlighted the need for better training on forensic engineering and raising engineers' skills in this discipline more broadly. Engineering New Zealand is looking into re-establishing a forensic engineering course, and is also about to launch the 2019 dates for an expert witness course.

3.2 Technical Forum

1. The next Technical Forum for Christchurch engineers is scheduled for Monday 27 May. Engineering New Zealand is working with panel members to identify topics for discussion and case studies, based on the issues identified in the December 2018 forum.

4. Legal Discussion

1. There was a discussion with the Chair of the LAG about the legal and regulatory issues engineers often struggle with, including in relation to insurance policies and sections 17 and 112 of the Building Act.
2. It was agreed that resolution processes need to be flexible and agile. It was discussed that effective triage is critical to identifying resolution options, and that there may be opportunities to bridge technical and legal differences at an early stage through different facilitation models.

5. General Business

5.1 Arising issues

1. There was a discussion about on-sold properties and vendor responsibilities. This included a discussion on the need for better information about what can be expected from a property inspection. Existing resources from MBIE, EQC and Standards NZ were identified. It was agreed it would be helpful to have a central access point for these resources.
2. The importance of developing case studies was also highlighted. Engineering New Zealand is following this up with the assistance of panel members.

5.2 Next meeting

Next meeting and future meeting dates to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 10.30am