

*Submission to*

**Ministry of Business and  
Employment**

*on*

**Discussion Document  
Accelerating Renewable  
Energy & Energy Efficiency**

28 February 2020



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Energy Markets Policy  
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment  
PO Box 1473  
WELLINGTON 6140

By email: [energymarkets@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:energymarkets@mbie.govt.nz)

Dear Madam / Sir

### **ACCELERATING RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Concrete New Zealand (NZ) represents a membership of more than 700 corporates and individuals who collectively account for a significant proportion of the building and construction sector in New Zealand.

Concrete NZ replaced the Cement & Concrete Association of New Zealand (CCANZ) in 2017 and speaks with a unified voice on behalf of the cement and concrete industry.

Concrete NZ, in line with its mandate as representative of the cement and concrete industry, welcomes the opportunity to submit on the *Accelerating renewable energy and energy efficiency* discussion document.

Concrete NZ supports the transition to a net zero carbon New Zealand by 2050 and efforts to transition away from fossil fuels over the long-term where this is practicable.

### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

Concrete NZ supports sustainable solutions that cover the full range of options to reduce carbon emissions.

Concrete will play a vital role in the re-wiring of global energy systems through the increased viability of renewable energy sources and technologies.

Concrete offers a range of attributes in use that underpin this role, offering longevity, fire resistance, flood resilience and acoustic separation. The thermal mass of concrete is

absolutely crucial to the effective of passive solar design. It is also infinitely recyclable and easily repurposed.

Concrete is fundamental to the built environment, including low-emissions infrastructure such as hydro and wind-based electricity generation. Furthermore, the emissions reduction potential concrete offers public transport infrastructure is currently being showcased by the Auckland City Rail Link and in the recently announced \$1 billion KiwiRail investment.

## **CONCRETE & ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

1. Concrete's thermal mass, the ability to store and release heat energy, helps to reduce emissions association with active (i.e. mechanical) space heating and cooling.
2. Linked to 1. Is concrete's airtightness, which ensures a building does not leak valuable heating or cooling energy, as is the case with typical timber construction across New Zealand.
3. As mentioned above, concrete's strength and robustness are absolutely vital to realising New Zealand's future infrastructure, particularly that focussed on renewable electricity generation, such as hydro dams and wind turbines.
4. Concrete's durability reduces the energy and resources required for maintenance. Under normal circumstances, concrete will not deteriorate and will last many generations before needing to be repaired or replaced. In this respect, concrete is more sustainable than timber or steel.
5. Medium and high-density developments will be crucial to ensuring an adequate and affordable supply of housing. Concrete's fire resistance and acoustic separation mean it is ideal for such developments, as the need for energy dependent sprinkler systems and secondary acoustic insulation is reduced.

Concrete NZ thanks you again for this opportunity to provide feedback to the discussion document.

Yours sincerely



Rob Gaimster  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
Concrete NZ