The only mechanism I can see being able to properly address these problems is the type of technically competent, bureaucrat-free Ministry of Building and Construction I have been proposing for years now, complete with a carefully selected oversight board.

Only such a ministry can, in short order, do such wonderful things as:

- Build up a sufficient body of key experts able to work near full time to sort out and resolve the problems and unknowns present in our current building systems and practices;
- Provide funding for associated testing and analyses;
- Through a planned and coordinated funding of other research activities, guide other researchers to, at least in the short term, concentrate on the things we need answers to, not the researcher's latest new idea;
- Provide the standing technical committees that ensure the proper testing, verification and design methodologies are developed before an innovative product or method is released, and not after it has been established;
- Ensure that the codes, standards and design guides are coordinated, so that, in a simple and comprehensive way, all major building systems are properly and clearly codified in as few different documents as possible;
- Foster genuine debate and invite searching critique;
- Enforce compliance.

A technically competent and ethical ministry would have the power and the will to say "Stop that now" or "This is banned' and enforce it, and not issue statements like "It is unlikely that it will be able to demonstrate that this system complies with the Building Code."

Regards,

John Scarry

SESOC Member

CITATION

Hamish McKenzie is awarded Life Membership of the Structural Engineering Society of New Zealand in recognition of the significant contribution he has made to the practice of structural engineering in New Zealand through professional support and standards development and in recognition of his significant contribution to SESOC as a Management Committee member and President of the Society.

Hamish's qualifications include a BE (Civil) with First Class Honours from the University of Canterbury. He is a Chartered Professional Engineer. Hamish was made a Fellow of Engineering New Zealand in 2020.

Hamish has over 25 years experience as a consulting Structural Engineer in a variety of roles and locations in New Zealand and overseas. Hamish is Principal, Structures with Holmes Consulting, based in Wellington.

His recent project experience includes the seismic strengthening and assessment of a number of well-known Wellington buildings including Parliament Buildings, Wellington Town Hall, Majestic Centre and the Wellington Railway Station. Hamish has also led the Structural Engineering delivery of a new Air-Traffic Control Tower at Wellington International Airport and the refurbishment and strengthening of the 1960's Aurora Centre using fluid viscous dampers (a first in New Zealand).

Hamish is a recognised leader within the Structural Engineering community in New Zealand. Hamish served as SESOC President for two years until 2021. In his term as President he devoted many hours working with Engineering New Zealand on responses to issues facing the profession and he continues that involvement.

He is a member of the Engineering New Zealand Programme Challenge Group, the C5 Evidence Project, the Precast Floor Assessment Monitoring Group, the Systems Report Working Group, a Structural CPEng Practice Assessor and is Project Director for the Low Damage Seismic Design project. Hamish is a keen advocate of professional standards and as a member of the Occupational Regulation Working Group, he led SESOC's submission on occupational regulation and championed looking upon it as part of a quality life cycle.

As a nationally and internationally respected structural engineer and for his tireless devotion to the profession, Hamish McKenzie is a worthy recipient of the award of Life Membership of the Structural Engineering Society of New Zealand.

SESOC President

Michelle Grant

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