

Media Statement
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School Infrastructure Upgrade a Win for Children and Industry

The announcement that the Government is accelerating over \$400 million of investment in school infrastructure is very welcome at a time when our industry needs the work and our schools need new facilities, says Infrastructure New Zealand Chief Executive Nick Leggett.

“When it comes to delivering infrastructure, it’s not just about how much we invest as a country, it’s also about how we do things to make better use of those investments,” says Leggett. “This means making the most of what we have got and being as efficient as possible in how we deliver new projects. This school infrastructure programme ticks both those boxes.”

“In accelerating this funding and focusing on improved procurement through the use of standardised designs and offsite manufacturing, the Government is demonstrating that social infrastructure can be achieved quickly and efficiently. In this case reducing the cost of a new classroom by half means we can now deliver twice the number of classrooms for the same amount of money.”

“Bringing these projects forward not only addresses urgent demand in our schools but also gives the construction and supply industries the certainty of work when it is needed most,” Leggett says. “It is good the Government is heeding the call from industry to get more standardised work into the market as quickly as possible.”

“This will be a big step forward for ensuring our education facilities can keep up with growing demand and provide the high-quality learning environments our children deserve. It also proves that New Zealand can get better value for money in infrastructure and work to market swiftly when we put our minds to it.”

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Infrastructure New Zealand is the nation’s leading infrastructure member association. Our core purpose is to advance best practice development of world-class transport, energy, water, telecommunications, and social infrastructure for all New Zealanders. We do this through research, advocacy, and public and private sector collaboration. Our membership is comprised of over 150 organisations, including central and local government agencies, consultants, contractors, financiers, utilities, and academics – collectively employing approximately 150,000

people in infrastructure-related roles. Together, we are committed to creating a better New Zealand through outstanding infrastructure.

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