Media Statement
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Infrastructure Industry Losing Workers as Investment Uncertainty Threatens Future Delivery

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Almost half of respondents to a new infrastructure industry survey say they have lost staff overseas in the past year, raising concerns about New Zealand's ability to deliver the infrastructure investment it will need in the years ahead.

Infrastructure New Zealand's latest industry survey, **The Pulse**, found that 48% of respondents reported losing staff overseas, and 44% said their organisations had reduced staff numbers over the past year. The survey also found that 91% believe the election is creating uncertainty for infrastructure investment decisions, while 52% expect the next 12 months to be financially harder than the previous year. Just 7% expect financial conditions to improve.

Infrastructure New Zealand Chief Executive Nick Leggett says the findings highlight a serious challenge for the country's infrastructure sector.

"New Zealand has an enormous amount of infrastructure to build and look after. But the industry is telling us that they're uncertain about the future, so they're struggling to keep the people they need to get on with that work."

The survey also raises concerns about the country's future delivery capability.

When asked about New Zealand's preparedness to deliver an increase in infrastructure investment, 56% of respondents considered the country ill-prepared if investment increased within the next 12 months.

"That's a particularly concerning finding," Leggett says. "It suggests that waiting may make our infrastructure challenge harder, not easier."

Leggett says the survey also reveals an important distinction between the industry's immediate financial pressures and its longer-term concerns.

“The biggest concern isn’t simply cashflow. It’s whether there will be a credible pipeline of work over the next year and beyond.”

“The industry needs visibility of what’s coming, when it will be funded and when it will be delivered.”

The survey also found overwhelming support for agreement on infrastructure priorities across political parties.

Some 93% of respondents said cross-party agreement on major infrastructure priorities was extremely or very important.

Leggett says the message is consistent with the priorities outlined in Infrastructure New Zealand’s 2026 Election Manifesto, specifically the need to legislate a 12-year funded and sequenced programme of work.

The full results are available at https://letsbuild.nz/the-pulse/

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The Pulse surveyed 290 infrastructure sector participants in July 2026. Respondents included consultants, contractors, local government, asset owners and infrastructure providers. The survey is self-selected, with consultants and larger organisations strongly represented. It provides valuable evidence of industry sentiment but should not be presented as a statistically representative measure of the entire infrastructure sector. The survey forms part of Infrastructure New Zealand’s non-partisan **Let's Build NZ** campaign, which seeks to promote evidence-based infrastructure decisions and greater long-term certainty.

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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