**Professional Opinion – Institutional support in a politicised transport arena**

Preferred session format: Soapbox, oral session or rapid fire

***“If we don't put enough steel in the beam, the bridge will collapse”***

*“Makes sense”*

***“If we make driving more attractive, more people will drive”***

*“That's just, like, your opinion, man.”*

We live in a global context of rising mistrust for science and evidence. How can Transportation Group support constructive and factual public discourse as tension spreads to Aotearoa New Zealand? How can we help our members, clients, decision-makers and the wider public to be Tūpuna Pono – Good Ancestors?

We hope that clarifying transport facts and ethics at an institutional level will help lift some of the burden from individual members, and that it will empower the community and decision-makers to engage in transport challenges constructively.

Therefore, last year the Transportation Group consulted with members on a position statement setting out some transport principles for members and the wider community to use.

This presentation runs through the development of the draft position statement, including key obligations in the Engineering NZ Code of Ethical Conduct (binding for members of ENZ), and some key transport facts that are highly impactful and strongly supported by evidence (e.g. induced demand, efficient land use, distributional impacts of policy).

While we anticipate some contention in the public arena about the transport facts, we expect the gnarliest debate around applying ethics in transport. This presentation starts to put structure around this debate and invites members to be a part of shaping where we take it – an important step on the path to a transport network that really meets the needs of future generations.

Key obligations in the Engineering NZ Code of Ethical Conduct:

* “*…safeguard the health and safety of people”*
* *“have regard to… effects on the environment [ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities]”*
* *“bring [adverse consequences] to the notice of the relevant regulatory body”*