



Transport Industry Skills Board

Industry-led subjects announcement

Engineering Technology confirmed as a new senior secondary subject

The Transport Industry Skills Board will lead the development of Engineering Technology, following its confirmation as one of nine new industry-led subjects in New Zealand's new senior secondary qualification system.

The subject will be developed with support from the Energy and Infrastructure Industry Skills Board, the Manufacturing and Engineering Industry Skills Board, and the Electrotechnology, Information Technology, and Creative Industry Skills Board.

Transport Industry Skills Board Chief Executive Samantha McNaughton says the announcement creates an important opportunity to introduce more young people to the breadth of engineering and technical careers available across New Zealand.

"Engineering supports many of the systems and industries that keep New Zealand moving, connected, and productive, but young people do not always see the full range of opportunities available to them," McNaughton says.

"This subject will give students practical experience of engineering concepts and help them understand how those capabilities connect to further study, training, apprenticeships, and employment.

"It also provides an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between schools and industry, so learners can make informed decisions about their futures and employers can help shape stronger pathways into the workforce."

Engineering Technology will introduce students to the systems, machines, tools, and infrastructure used across modern engineering and technical industries.

Learning will draw on real-world contexts from areas such as automotive, aviation, maritime, rail, electrotechnology, manufacturing, construction, and infrastructure. Students will build practical and transferable capabilities through hands-on, project-based learning.

Aviation Industry Association of New Zealand Chief Executive Simon Wallace says the subject could also help address the aviation sector's long-term need for more skilled engineers and technical workers.

"Aviation relies on a strong pipeline of people with practical engineering and technical capabilities. Introducing students to these opportunities earlier will help broaden awareness of aviation careers and encourage more young people to consider pathways into aircraft engineering and the wider industry."

Motor Trade Association Chief Executive Lee Marshall says the new subject is an opportunity to create a clearer and more connected pathway from school into further training, apprenticeships, and employment.

"MTA has called for one pathway with parity between vocational and academic learning, so young people can choose subjects that reflect their strengths and aspirations without one route being seen as less valuable than another," Marshall says.



“Engineering Technology can help put that approach into practice by giving students meaningful exposure to technical learning at school and showing how those skills connect directly to apprenticeships, further training, and rewarding careers in the automotive industry.”

McNaughton says collaboration with industry will be central to ensuring the subject reflects current practice, emerging technologies, and future workforce needs.

“The development process gives employers, industry organisations, schools, providers, and subject experts an opportunity to help create a subject that is relevant, practical, and connected to genuine pathways beyond school.”

Development will take place across 2026 and 2027, followed by assessment design, piloting, and transition.

Engineering Technology is expected to become available to Year 12 students in 2029 and Year 13 students in 2030.

Further information about opportunities to contribute will be shared as development progresses.

For more information, visit the [Transport Industry Skills Board website](#).

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