

Dr Patrick Strange



Bachelor of Engineering, University of Auckland, 1972
Ph. D in Engineering, University of Auckland, 1977
Distinguished Fellow, IPENZ 2014

Patrick has spent 35 years working principally in the New Zealand and international electricity and infrastructure sectors.

He completed a doctorate in civil engineering at the University of Auckland, and then spent 13 years in Europe and North America, working in a succession of senior management roles.

Patrick returned to New Zealand in 1991 as General Manager, Power Generation for Fletcher Challenge's energy business.

He joined Mercury Energy in 1997, with responsibility for strategy and acquisitions. After heading the company's response to the 1998 Auckland Power Crisis, he was appointed Chief Executive in July 1998. He went on to build the network unit into a successful standalone business as Vector, New Zealand's largest electricity distribution company.

Patrick recently retired as Chief Executive of Transpower, New Zealand's transmission owner and operator, a position to which he was appointed in November 2007. During his tenure, Transpower successfully completed a major, multi-billion dollar reinvestment in the grid.

Amongst other roles, Patrick has been an independent director of the listed Contact Energy and Chair of the Advisory Board for the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Auckland. He is currently Chair of Chorus Limited, and a director of Mighty River Power, NZX Limited, Worksafe New Zealand and NSW Networks (Ausgrid, Endeavour Energy and Essential Energy).

He was named Energy Executive of the Year in 2011, led Transpower to being Energy Company of the Year in 2013, and has twice been a finalist in the New Zealand Executive of the Year awards. He was appointed a Distinguished Fellow of IPENZ in March 2014.

“Patrick’s significant experience in New Zealand governance and infrastructure – including his involvement in workplace health and safety – would greatly assist the Board, especially as it continues to focus on the implementation of the 30-year vision to build the airport of the future.”

Sir Henry van der Heyden
Chair, Auckland Airport