

Ross Thurlow, who is the engineering examiner for professional exams, kindly agreed to speak with the Auckland YSG on 29/06/11. The meeting was relatively informal, but the following are points taken from this meeting which would be worthwhile circulating to Young Surveyors in other regions. Please note that these are points and therefore the opinion from one examiner only. Hopefully they make sense and are of some use!

- Refer to the NZIS Admissions Panel 2010/2011 Annual Circular for information on what is required. This is available on the NZIS website ([www.surveyors.org.nz](http://www.surveyors.org.nz)).
- Ross is well aware that some surveyors are struggling to obtain the required 2 months of supervision within the 6 months engineering experience in order to sit the professional exams. He has suggested speaking with employers, other development and civil companies within your region, and/or your local NZIS branch in order to gain contacts, organise attendance at particular site meetings/road testing etc or potentially organise a secondment to an engineering firm. Some people have contacted contract companies or engineering firms in order to work with them in their own time.
- Ross was also aware that some surveyors are struggling to find a project within their company which meets the criteria of the NZIS Annual Circular. In this situation, he has suggested
  1. Submitting a project which demonstrates particular engineering competencies and complexities but may not fulfil all the requirements of the circular. Here, you would need to contact National Office to check if your particular project is acceptable. This gives the examiner a chance to review whether your project can be submitted, and if you need to provide any additional information for the exams. He used an example where a candidate had undertaken an engineering job which involved the upgrade of an airport runway. In this situation, you might be asked to design additional “mock” sanitary sewer system or design for fire requirements for your project in order to meet the Annual Circular standards.
  2. Undertaking a “mock” engineering project in your own time

In both these situations, it is important that you contact National Office in order to get dispensation for not meeting the criteria of the NZIS Annual Circular.

With regards to undertaking a “mock” project in your own time, discussions took place as to what time involved in this project (if any) could make up some of the 6 months of engineering experience required. It is Ross’s understanding that time spent discussing certain aspects or issues for the project with other Engineers/Council etc can be seen as time able to make up some of the 6 months as this can be signed off. However, the remainder of the time spent on this project should not make up your 6 months engineering experience.

- Ross emphasised the importance of undertaking and understanding block/economic evaluations of your development in order to understand the costs involved in your development. He suggested Jefferies “Urban Valuation in New Zealand” as being a standard format for block valuation which may be used (having had a quick look on the internet, it looks like this might be a book that you need to purchase from Property NZ? But don’t quote me on this!)

## **The “Do’s” and “Don’t’s”**

### **Do’s**

Make sure you do the following...

- Proof read all documents prior to sending them in. If possible, get someone else to proof read them as well.
- Check for all typos
- In many instances, photographs may be useful
- Build the report up in a logistical and clear order
- Have correct cross referencing within your reports, for example if you say ‘refer to Appendix A’, make sure there is an Appendix A and that it contains the correct information.
- Keep your answers at the examinations short
- Dress to impress – wear a business suit if possible. Remember these are professional exams so it pays to look professional.
- Familiarise yourself with all your projects prior to attending the professional examinations. It may have been a while since you have worked on a particular project, and the examiners will expect you to know them well.
- Remember to sign your declaration forms for all projects

### **Don’t’s**

Do not do the following...

- Be late
- Be unprepared
- Try to impress or be too arrogant
- Dress slack
- Omit information in your projects