



NEWSLETTER

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A WORD FROM THE REGISTRAR

Happy New Year and welcome to the first e-news of 2018 – I hope you enjoyed some well-earned time off over the festive period with friends and family.

BPEQ staff have been back at work for several weeks now busy planning for the year ahead. One of our immediate priorities is preparing for the RPEQ renewal period that begins 1 April 2018. RPEQs can assist in the process by having all their contact details up to date; RPEQs will receive a renewal notice via post and email to the addresses notified to BPEQ. To make the renewal process as efficient as possible RPEQs are encouraged to renew their registration online.

BPEQ's registration roadshows will get underway next month visiting Kingaroy, Mundubbera and Noosa from 13-15 February. Engineers and companies in Kingaroy, Mundubbera and Noosa wanting to meet with BPEQ staff for a registration seminar or another purpose can find out more about the trip itinerary by contacting BPEQ's [Communications and Media Adviser](#).

Unauthorised use of RPEQ names and numbers was the subject of much attention last year. BPEQ strives to inform RPEQs about legal matters to assist them in their day to day work; in this issue of the e-news BPEQ will discuss the penalties for unauthorised use of RPEQ names and numbers and what to do if it happens to you.

We trust you enjoy and find the e-news useful; and please feel free to contact BPEQ at admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au or call 07 3210 3100 if we can be of assistance.

Gary Stirling
A/Registrar



ADVICE ON UNAUTHORISED USE OF YOUR NAME AND RPEQ NUMBER

The unauthorised use of RPEQ signatures is an ongoing issue about which BPEQ continue to receive notifications.

This issue has been previously addressed in e-news articles in May 2015 ‘Electronic signatures – what you need to know’ and February 2017 ‘Unauthorised use of signatures on certification documents.’

The latter article contains a section titled ‘Protective measures’ which lists things RPEQs should consider doing to attempt to prevent their signature, name, or RPEQ number from being used without their knowledge and consent.

The final protective measure stated is that if a RPEQ becomes aware of the possibility their signature has been used without authorisation, they should take immediate action including obtaining independent legal advice, notifying BPEQ, and making a complaint to the Queensland Police Service (**QPS**).

The unauthorised use of a person’s signature on a document can, in certain circumstances, be a criminal offence:

- A person who, with intent to defraud, either forges a document or utters a forged document commits the crime of Forge and Utter, which can be investigated by the QPS and which carries a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment (see [Queensland Criminal Code](#)). Any person who has knowledge of a suspected Forge and Utter can make a complaint to the QPS.
- A person who dishonestly obtains property from any person or gains a benefit or advantage, pecuniary or otherwise, for any person, amongst other things, commits the crime of Fraud, which can be investigated by the QPS and which carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment (see [Queensland Criminal Code](#)). Any person who has knowledge of a suspected Fraud can make a complaint to the QPS.

- If the person who prepared the document to which your name and RPEQ number were allegedly affixed was not a RPEQ and did not prepare the document under the direct supervision of a RPEQ who was responsible for the person’s work, then that person may have committed an offence against section 115 of the *Professional Engineers Act 2002 (PE Act)* - carrying out professional engineering services when not a RPEQ (practising professional engineer)—which can be investigated by BPEQ and which carries a maximum penalty of approximately \$126,000. Any person who has knowledge of a suspected offence against the PE Act can notify BPEQ.

The unlawful use of the RPEQ title is also an offence against section 114 of the PE Act and carries a maximum penalty of approximately \$126,000.

Any person who has knowledge of a suspected offence against the PE Act can notify BPEQ.

Any notification you may make to BPEQ about your situation should contain:

- Who is alleged to have affixed your name and RPEQ number;
- A copy of the particular drawings to which your name and number were affixed;
- Particulars about the matter that are within your knowledge.

Further information about BPEQ policies and processes is available on the BPEQ website or by contacting BPEQ directly at legal@bpeq.qld.gov.au or calling 07 3210 3100.

While BPEQ staff will endeavour to provide assistance about processes and procedures, staff will not provide legal advice.



BEN SELLERS RPEQ CHAMPION

RPEQ Ben Sellers believes registration is one way that he can demonstrate to the public that his solutions are the best they can be.



'Just get started' is new RPEQ Champion Ben Sellers' advice to engineers wanting to become a RPEQ. Ben, who obtained his registration through the CPEng assessment with Engineers Australia, believes strongly in the RPEQ system. For Ben registration comes down to accountability, it demonstrates to the public that the engineering solutions he provides are the best they can be and sets a standard for engineering work to be judged against.

Ben also believes that registration is valuable enough for engineers that they should be using their own time to make it happen, rather than relying on an employer. In his experience, most employers will permit some work time going towards engineers getting their registration, but they should also expect to put in effort and work in their own time to achieve their RPEQ status.

Ben studied electrical engineering at James Cook University in Townsville and was awarded the University Medal in 2005. Following university, he joined AECOM, becoming proficient at industrial design, technical specification writing, client liaison and contract administration. Ben later moved to Ergon Energy as a protection engineer; eventually becoming a senior protection engineer (a position for which being a RPEQ was a requirement). It was during his time with Ergon that he completed the CPEng assessment and became a RPEQ. In 2015 he became a RPEQ non-practising and took a career break to pursue other interests; re-registering as a RPEQ in 2018.

As a RPEQ Champion Ben is happy to share his experiences and advice about becoming a RPEQ with young engineers. To get in touch with Ben first contact BPEQ by calling 07 3210 3107.

UPCOMING CPD COURSES

IPWEAQ COURSES

Queensland Urban Drainage Manual Workop

- Sunshine Coast – 7 February
- Gold Coast – 21 February

Road Safety Audit

- Brisbane – 13-14 February
- Road Safety Audit Refresher
- Brisbane – 15 February

Managing Risks on Lower Order Roads

- Gladstone – 27 February
- Rockhampton – 28 February

Erosion & Sediment Control

- Brisbane 6-8 February (Level 3 Advanced)
- Brisbane 8 February (Type A, B, C, D Sediment Basin Design)
- Brisbane 13 February (Level 2 Intermediate)

Visit <http://www.ipweaq.com/courses> for more information or to register for these courses.

To include an upcoming CPD course in the BPEQ e-news contact BPEQ's [Communications and Media Adviser](#).



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST RPEQS

BPEQ extends a warm welcome to the following engineers who became registered in the last month:

Dylan WILLIS	Ovidiu BOARU	Steven GATTY	Gareth RUDRAM
Roderick SWEETING	Ruairi McCARRON	Arshad YAQOOB	Ricky CLAYTON
Daniel SUMAN	Ryan ASHWORTH	Stephen CLARKE	Alireza BATAGHVA
Anne-Maria VAHLMAN	Heiner BREUER	Cathleen JOHNSTON	Bassel SHBEEB
Trent ATTEWELL	Hollie Maree LEWIS	Attila GUBICAK	Iyad S'BAYEH
Steven BLANDFORD	Gary THIES	Noel SINCLAIR	Jason HOCKINGS
Richard BOUDAN	Zarko DJEKIC	George CAROFANO	Yuzing ZHOU
Tony RAVELL	Leendert LORENZEN	David LEWIS	Matthew HENDLE
Joseph CHAO	Andrew O'KEEFFE	John O'SULLIVAN	Paraic BUTLER
Ben ELSMORE	James FRITH	Dung HUYNH	John DRIVER
Yee Mun FAN	Hashini WEDAGEDARA	Mohammad HASSANI	John MANN
Fadi AKKAWI	Andrew CLARKSON	Anthony BARTHELMESS	Matthew KELLY
Richard HOLROYD	Kevin BOYLE	Sheng DONG	Virginia LAWSON
James DENTON	Andrew WEBB	Julie O'SULLIVAN	Benjamin SILEC
Sean EDWARDS	Thomas BOULTON	Colin CARR	Sean BOSTON
Ruhul KHAN	Michiel JAGERSMA	Andrew ADDINSELL	Shamim YAZDANI
Christopher WRIGHT	Ali JOLOUS HAGHI	Sammy CHAM	Zhuoran BU
Johan LABAN	Steven HUTCHISON	Scott DAVIS	Philippe VINCENT
Peter KOWALYOV	Simon BATT	Sangmin LEE	Troy INGRAM
Michael CHONG	Sonali MAHAJAN	Tarek ALSHOUFI	David WU
Graeme FIELD	Paul GROVER	Mieczyslaw WRONSKI	Ali PARAST
Daniel BRINE	Conrad SMITH	Jeremy MURRAY	Adrian SMITH
Simon ROFE	Wael NEGM	Gerrard HICKSON	Chathura SIRIMANNA
Thomas WATTS	Peter CHAN	Robert ACCENDERE	
Ramil ALZATE	David HUNT	Barbara WRONSKI	

CONNECT WITH BPEQ ON LINKEDIN



Don't forget BPEQ is on LinkedIn. To keep up to date with the latest news and events from BPEQ or to start a discussion on registration or engineering issues generally, click [FOLLOW](#).

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