

August e-news

Issue 48 2018

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BOARD OF
**PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEERS**
OF QUEENSLAND

A WORD FROM THE REGISTRAR

The comments from Central Queensland RPEQs during and after BPEQ's regional meeting and meet and greet underscore how important these events are.

Talking face to face with Board members and BPEQ staff is a far better way for engineers to discuss their concerns and thoughts, rather than back and forth emails.

A good number of RPEQs attended the meet and greet and I enjoyed being able to speak with many of you. A special mention to newly minted RPEQs Adrian Hudson and Adam Bletchley who received their registration certificates on the night.

August and September will be a busy period for BPEQ with several events and trips planned. BPEQ staff returned recently from the Queensland Mining Industry Health and Safety Conference on the Gold Coast and a registration roadshow to Townsville. BPEQ staff will also be at next month's [Australian Engineering Conference](#). The 2018 Australian Engineering Conference will have major focus on new and emerging technologies and how they will affect engineers.

From our time at the Queensland Mining Industry Health and Safety Conference and through broader engagement with engineers in the mining and resources sector it appears that the understanding of the PE Act is improving. In this e-news issue we will delve into some of the common questions we encounter when discussing the PE Act with engineering in mining and resources.

A special mention to newly minted RPEQ Adam Bletchly who received his registration certificate on the night.



You will also find an article from BPEQ academic representative Dr Nagaratnam (Siva) Sivakugan encouraging RPEQs to share their knowledge and skills by writing and publishing their works.

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 assist you.

KYLIE MERCER
Registrar

ARE YOU STILL REGISTERED?

BPEQ has received a number of notifications regarding engineers who were unregistered claiming to be RPEQs on correspondence, forms, drawings or other documents.

Registration is for a period of 12 months, from 1 July – 30 June and all RPEQs are required to renew their registration during the annual renewal period (April-May). RPEQs who do not renew their registration during the renewal period have their registration lapsed. In the lead up to and during the renewal period RPEQs receive several reminders to renew their registration by post and email*, through BPEQ's e-news and adverts in industry publications.

It is an offence under the *Professional Engineers Act 2002 (PE Act)* to use the title 'registered professional engineer', 'registered professional engineer of Queensland' or 'RPEQ' if you are not registered at the time that you use that title.

In most cases these engineers' use of the title 'RPEQ' was inadvertent but even an inadvertent use of the title is an offence under the PE Act. BPEQ takes the use of the legally protected title 'RPEQ' (or similar terms) very seriously. It is legally and professionally incumbent on you to ensure you are a RPEQ whenever you use this title.

Many of the notifications BPEQ received about unregistered practise arose because the subject engineer had omitted to renew their registration or where their application for renewal had not been processed because they, or their employer, had failed to pay the renewal fees. An application for renewal is not processed until the requisite fees are paid. Accordingly, these engineer's registration expired on 30 June 2018.

The consequences of failing to renew your registration before the expiry of the registration year and your registration lapsing are as follows:

- If you are not a RPEQ you are not legally entitled to carry out professional engineering services in or for Queensland unless you are directly supervised by a RPEQ. It is an offence to carry out professional engineering services if you are not a RPEQ or directly supervised by a RPEQ.
- You cannot use the title 'registered professional engineer', 'registered professional engineer of Queensland' or 'RPEQ' if you are not registered as a RPEQ at the time you use that title/s. It is an offence to use these titles if you are not a RPEQ.
- You will need to apply for restoration of your registration. For applications for restoration made more than two months after expiry (30 June), the applicant will need to provide evidence that they have satisfied the continuing registration requirements (refer to policy '[Restoration of RPEQs](#)' for more information). It can take up to three weeks for BPEQ to process compliant applications for restoration. During this processing time you will not be registered and therefore cannot carry out professional engineering services in or for Queensland without direct supervision from a RPEQ. An application for restoration also incurs an additional fee (\$61.65).



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PROTECTING THE PUBLIC AND SETTING
THE STANDARD OF ENGINEERING



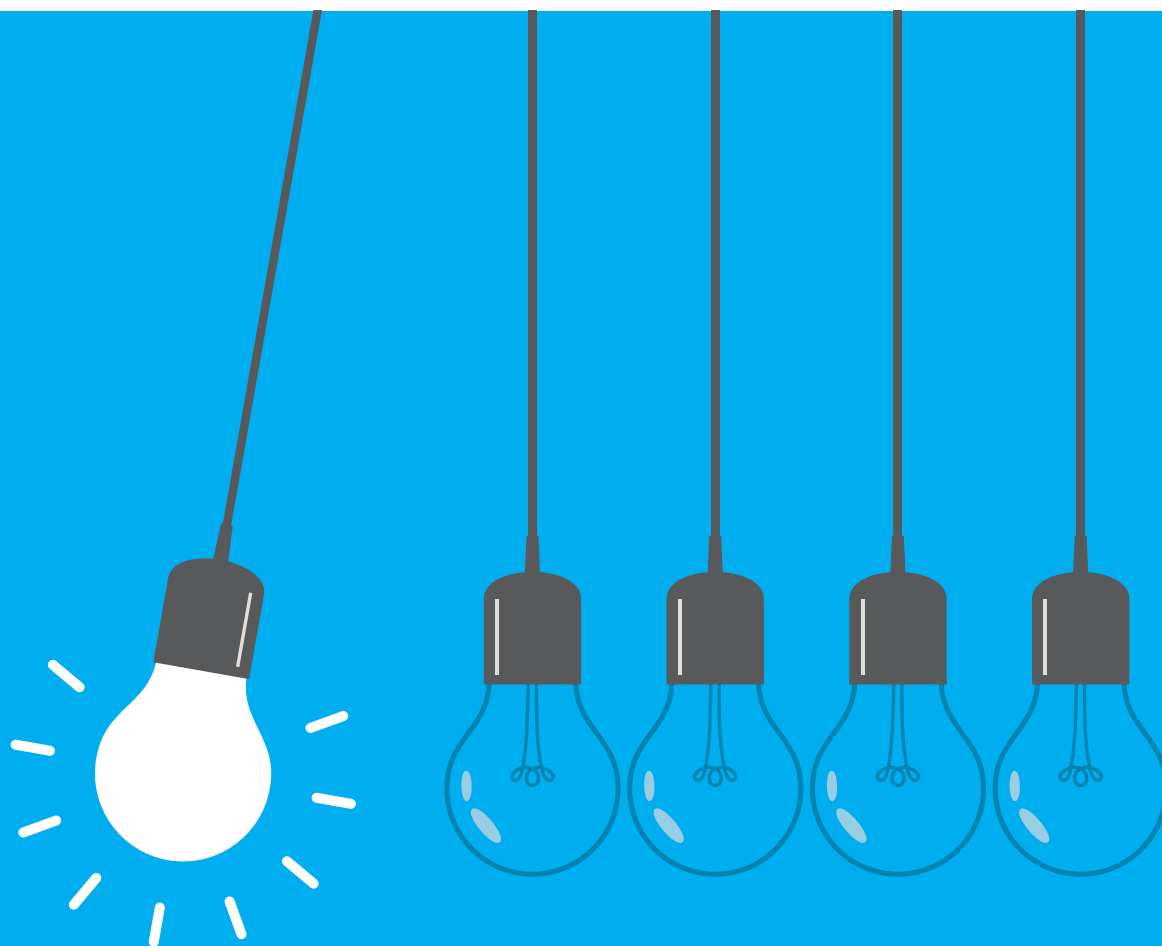
BPEQ Chair Dawson Wilkie presents Adam Bletchly with his RPEQ certificate during the meet and greet with Central Queensland RPEQs.

RPEQs can check their registered status by searching the [online register of RPEQs](#). RPEQs will also find guides and policies concerning registration, renewal and restoration.

If you are currently registered you can change your address for notices by logging onto [your online profile](#). Your username is your RPEQ number. If you do not have a password, use the 'forgot my password' link. Alternatively contact BPEQ at admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au and ask that your contact details be updated.

Postal correspondence and emails concerning registration and other critical matters are sent to the street address and email address you provide to BPEQ. It is important that these details are up to date and accurate so that you receive all communications from BPEQ. You should also ensure that this address is sufficiently private as it will also be used by BPEQ to correspond with you about private matters (e.g. complaints).

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE: PUBLISH AND LEAVE A LEGACY



This may be the time to consolidate and share our specialist knowledge, and leave a legacy, writes Dr Siva Sivakugan.

We have all acquired certain skills and experience over the years; and there is a writer within all of us. This may be the time to consolidate and share that specialist knowledge and leave a legacy. Some of you would have written articles for industry publications, seminars and workshops, conference proceedings, journals, book chapters, or books. By doing so you are helping to expand the knowledge of your peers, but perhaps most importantly gaining valuable continuing professional development hours for yourself. Having authored a few best-sellers in geotechnical engineering and hundreds of research papers, I thought that I might give some advice to RPEQs considering writing and publishing their works.

At one end of the spectrum, there are peer-reviewed or refereed articles that are published in journals and at conferences, which are widely circulated and archived for decades. Peer-reviewed or refereed articles are respected in the professional world and are used to support our judgement in engineering projects. The other end of the spectrum consists of articles published in seminars, newsletters, or media, which may not necessarily be peer reviewed. They have a shorter shelf life but can be a good start to fine-tune your entry into the publishing world.

Writing a book is very different and not something done on a whim. Hundreds of hours are spent preparing the manuscript and seeing it through the publishing process for little or no monetary value.

The peer-review process with the top-tier international journals is very thorough. The paper is sent to several reviewers who work in the same area. The anonymous reviewers' comments are sent to the authors with requests to address. After several reviews, the manuscript is accepted or rejected by the editor of the journal, who has the final say. The reviewers, mostly university academics, do this as a service and are not paid.

Good quality peer reviewed journals are indexed by Scopus, Google Scholar, Web of Science among others. These organisations provide citation metrics which quantify impact and quality of the article.

One of the key measures is the number of citations, which says how many other researchers have cited your paper in their research. Every author has an h-index, an esteem measure of the number of contributions with high citations. An h-index of 20 means the author has 20 contributions that have more than 20 citations. In universities, these metrics are used in recruitment and promotions.

Writing a book is very different and not something done on a whim. Hundreds of hours are spent preparing the manuscript and seeing it through the publishing process for little or no monetary value. It is necessary to convince a publisher that you have a good idea which they may want to take aboard. The first step is to fill in a book proposal form with a tentative title; table of content; approximate page numbers; target groups; competing books in the market and preferably a sample chapter. The publisher sends the proposal to reviewers who understand the content, collates the reviews and makes the decision on whether to sign a contract with you as the author. Generally, the timeline for authors to finish a book is 1-2 years and the royalty is 10-15% of the net revenue obtained for each copy sold.

My current project is my ninth book *Soft Soil Engineering and Ground Improvement* co-authored by Dr Jay Ameratunga and Dr Braja Das, published by CRC Press. We are working with senior engineers in the profession, with substantial experience on soft soils, who will be contributing several chapters in some niche areas.

Be it a paper for a conference or a book, I encourage RPEQs to share their knowledge and turn their hand to writing and publishing their works.

DR NAGARATNAM (SIVA) SIVAKUGAN

James Cook University lecturer Dr Nagaratnam (Siva) Sivakugan was appointed to the Board in April 2018.

He received his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering with First Class Honours from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, and Master's of Science in Civil Engineering and PhD from Purdue University, West Lafayette, United States. Siva has authored eight books, seven book chapters, and several hundred refereed international journal papers, international conference papers and consulting reports. Siva is a Fellow of Engineers Australia and the American Society of Civil Engineers and does consulting work for geotechnical and mining companies.



UPCOMING CPD COURSES AND CONFERENCES

To include an upcoming CPD course in the e-news contact BPEQ's **Communications and Media Adviser**.

AIRAH

Section J of the BCA (NCC) course

Brisbane – 25 September

<http://bit.ly/2BinYIRI>

IPWEAQ COURSES

Erosion and Sediment Control Level 3, Advanced Training

Brisbane – 11-13 September

Critical Risk Management workshop

Sunshine Coast – 12 September

Toowoomba – 26 September

Erosion and Sediment Control Level 2, Intermediate Training

Townsville – 17 October



HOW THE PE ACT RELATES TO THE MINING AND RESOURCES SECTOR

BPEQ has in recent months stepped up efforts to engage with the mining and resources sector.

Despite being one of the four original recognised disciplines of engineering stated in the Professional Engineers Act 1929 there is widespread belief from the mining and resources sector that the PE Act and the requirement to be a RPEQ doesn't apply.

Unlike engineers in other disciplines, engineers in mining and resources are not likely to provide services to the public; and this is one argument put forward as to why more engineers in mining and resources are not registered. While it is true that a mining engineer does not provide services to the general public there is the possibility that the work they do can impact the general public. It is important to keep in mind that one of the core objectives of the PE Act is public protection.

Another argument to explain the lower number of RPEQs in the mining and resources sector is the perceived legislative duplication. The interaction of the PE Act with the mining sector's governing legislation, the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act, is still discussed with uncertainty by engineers in the mining and resources sector. At law, the PE Act applies to all professional engineering services in or for Queensland, including those carried out on mine sites.

Here we will take a look at some of the frequently asked questions BPEQ get from engineers in mining and resources.

Does the PE Act apply to mining engineers even though mines are covered by specific legislation?

Yes, the PE Act applies to both RPEQs and unregistered engineers or other unregistered persons who carry out professional engineering services on mine sites in Queensland. The PE Act also applies to persons located outside of Queensland who carry out professional engineering services for Queensland mine sites.

The *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999* and the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act* focus on health and safety while the PE Act focuses on ensuring the safety and quality of professional engineering services by way of its registration, disciplinary and prosecution systems.

Can a mine planning superintendent or a mine planning manager, who is a RPEQ, provide direct supervision by signing-off on designs even if not involved directly in the design process?

No. Directly supervising an unregistered person/s (including unregistered engineers) in carrying out a professional engineering service requires that a RPEQ be involved throughout the entirety of that service.

Direct supervision requires that the RPEQ:

- has direct contact with the person/s they are supervising
- has actual knowledge of the service as it is being carried out
- is the person directing the carrying out of the service
- oversees the carrying out of the service
- evaluates the service
- takes full professional responsibility for the service.

Different RPEQs may take responsibility for directing, overseeing and evaluating the carrying out of the service at different points in time, however, direct supervision by a RPEQ must occur throughout the entirety of the service.

Simply 'signing off' on designs without other RPEQs having provided direct supervision through the design process will not meet the requirements of direct supervision under the PE Act.

Can internal documents developed under the direct supervision of a RPEQ constitute a prescriptive standard?

An internal document may constitute a prescriptive standard if it meets the definition of prescriptive standard in the PE Act. In order to be a prescriptive standard a document must state procedures or criteria—

- (a) for carrying out a design, or a construction, production, operation or maintenance activity, relating to engineering; and
- (b) the application of which, to the carrying out of the design, or the construction, production, operation or maintenance activity, does not require advanced scientifically based calculations.

The document would need to ensure that there is no opportunity for the exercise of judgement for example as to how it applies or whether it applies to a particular scenario and no exercise of judgement required when following the procedures or criteria.

Further, the entirety of the professional engineering service/s would need to be addressed by the prescriptive standard and the prescriptive standard would need to be prescriptively followed.

The prescriptive standard would need to be developed by RPEQs and a careful consideration of whether the document meets the requirements of the PE Act would need to be undertaken.

Would it be the individual who would be reprimanded (as opposed to the company) for any breaches of the PE Act?

The disciplinary system under the PE Act applies only to RPEQs. The disciplinary system imposes individual responsibility on RPEQs for the professional engineering services they carry out or supervise.

RPEQs can be subject to disciplinary action if BPEQ believes, following an investigation, that the RPEQs has engaged in unsatisfactory professional conduct.

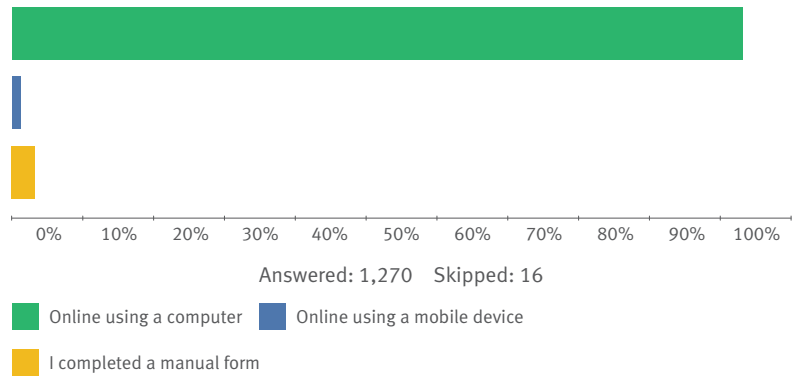
Both individuals and corporations can be prosecuted for PE Act offences. The most relevant offence is the offence in section 115 of the PE Act; carrying out a professional engineering service when not a registered professional engineer and not directly supervised by a registered professional engineer.

For more information on the PE Act or to request a seminar for your workplace contact BPEQ at admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au or call 07 3210 3100.

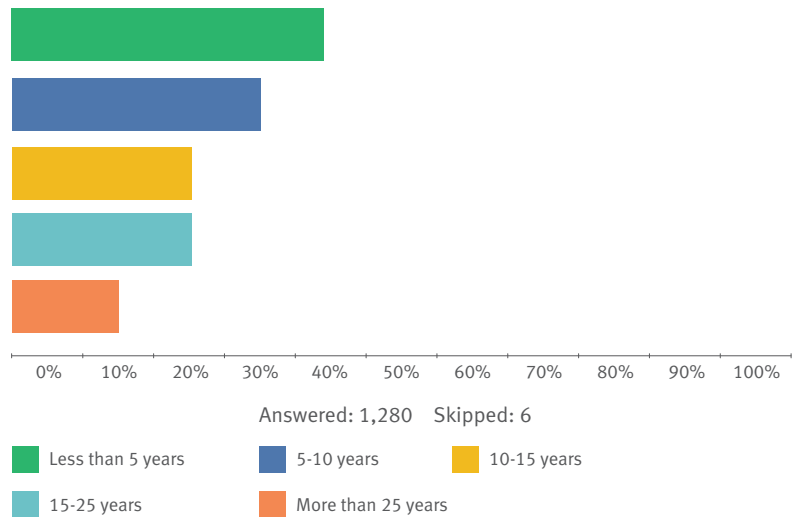
SURVEY RESULTS

The online renewal process survey returned some interesting results. BPEQ thanks all the RPEQs who completed the survey and will take on board the comments and feedback to improve the online renewal process for next year.

Q1 How did you renew your registration this year?



Q2 How long have you been a RPEQ (including time as a non-practising RPEQ)?

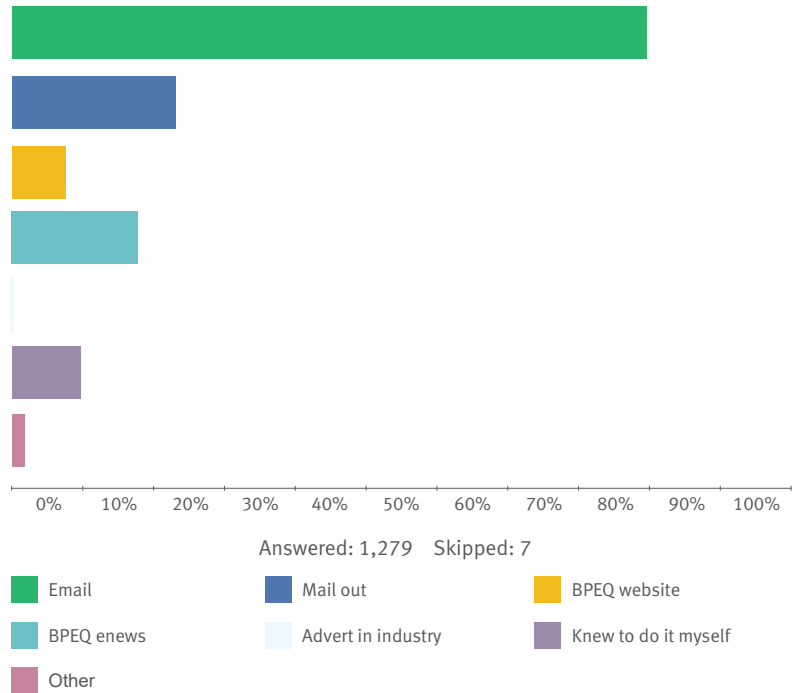


Q3

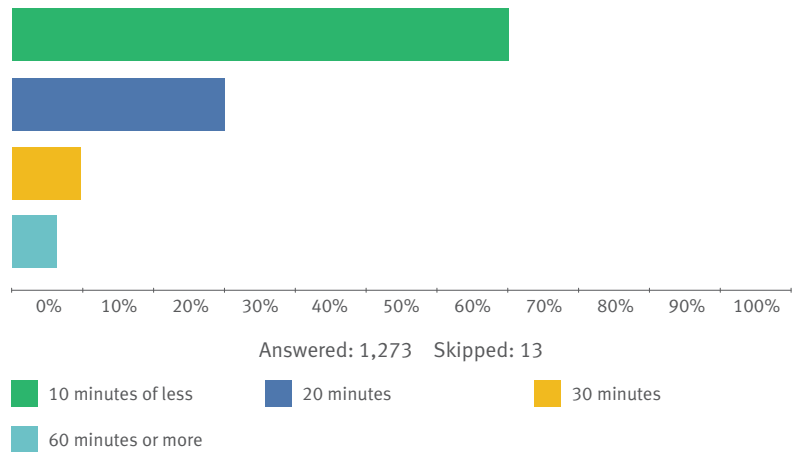
	EXCELLENT	GOOD	NEUTRAL/AVERAGE	JUST OK	NEEDS WORK	N/A
Ease of renewing	40.60% 490	39.77% 480	8.20% 99	3.73% 45	6.79% 82	0.91% 11
Information/instructions provided when renewing (e.g. prompts)	36.42% 452	43.67% 542	10.07% 125	4.11% 51	5.08% 63	0.64% 8
Communications and reminders in lead up to renewal period (e.g. mail out, emails)	39.86% 509	45.81% 585	7.99% 102	3.29% 42	2.58% 33	0.47% 6
Customer service provided by BPEQ	27.97% 355	32.70% 415	11.51% 146	2.05% 26	3.47% 44	22.30% 283

SURVEY RESULTS

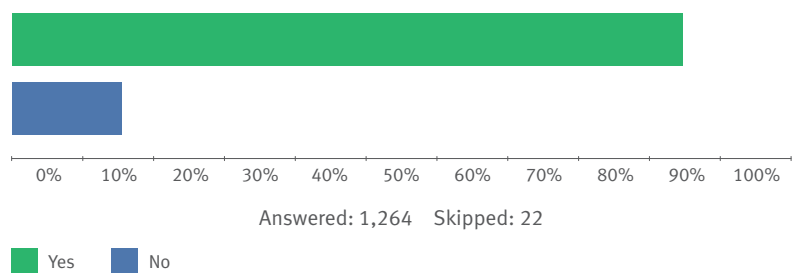
Q4 How did you find out about renewing your registration?



Q5 How long do you estimate you spent renewing your registration online?



Q6 Did you find the online renewal process quicker and easier than having to complete the hard copy paperwork?





WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST RPEQS

BPEQ extends a warm welcome to the following engineers who recently became registered:

Adil NAEEM	Damion PARKIN	Neil POSKITT	Michael CAMILLERI
Asif HASSAN	Catriona GURNEY	Shane MIDGLEY	Fiona CARTER
Eihab SUBHI	Irena BUCKMAN	Anil MALIK	Amir FARAZMAND
Rabin TULADHAR	Zhibo LIU	Stephen DENNIS	Trent WILLIAMS
Sunil CHOPRA	Mohamed ELSUNNI	William CREBER	Mohamed AHMED
Desmond PEREIRA	Luke HAYES	Benjamin McMAHON	Pierre FERNANDEZ
Peter RATTRAY	Assad SHUHAIBER	Adrian LEACH	Timothy DEMPSEY-JONES
Ahmad AHMADYAR	Brenton WENDT	Amr HUSSIEN	Zhirui CHEN
Sheng CUI	Timothy BAXTER	Blake CISLOWSKI	Ahmed ALI
Qing YE	Christopher O'SULLIVAN	Alexander McLENNAN	Jasbinder SHERGILL
Wei WANG	Troy SCHULTZ	Timothy BARNETT	Ashwin SHINDE
Ronan O'SHEA	Daniel MAIER	Paul LAZNICKA	Andrew WUTKE
Aaron PRIVITERA	Jessica MAJOR	Joseph ESPINOZA	Neil CROSS
Daniel HEW	Gregory MURPHY	Yong NG	Qiaoqin ZHOU
Samir AABASLAMA	Peter REYNOLDS	Mohammad ALWADI	Frank NITZSCHE
Andrei KHAIDUROV	Gary MARTIN	Alan ROWE	Jiyounng LEE
Tam NGUYEN	Ross BENEKE	Sameth GHONEIM	Joseph CHOW
Manuel MARINER FAULI	Min HUANG	Shayan MALEKI	Joe Jin WHITE
Syed MAGRABI	Norman BULAYAN	Robert TAYLOR	Gurdeep KUMAR
Rohn PEI	Ibrahim MAAROUF	Peter DICKSON	Matthew BUTLER
Gregory KNIGHT	Stavros POTHOUKAKIS	Armin LAHIJ	Joe PHILIP
Robert McDERMOTT	Matthew MURPHY	Rebekah REILLY	Muhammad SHARIQ
Peter TRUSS	Michael YAN	Emma LYONS	Amr HUSSEIN
Richard FARQUHAR	Angelo CIOCIANO	Marco SOTO	Justin BYRNES
Mahdi SHARAGKHANI	Ross UNDERWOOD	Andrew MEAGHER	Jason FINCH
Behnam HEDAYATI	Naim RJEILY	Ivan HERON	Zhongren CHENG
Gordon YOUNG	Ab ASIFI	Liqiang HONG	Qin GAN
David TROTTER	Adrian HUDSON	Ayodeji OLADEJO	Mohamed SOLIMAN
Leif BRADBROOK	Bandi MOUAWAD	Mario DARMANIN	Robert UEBERGANG
Asif CHOUDHARY	Karen HAGER	Ronald DUNNING	Daniel BOOSHAND
Masaud AKHTER	Edward DALLY	Anton BARDAK	Joey GUTIERREZ
Danny PERAZZOLO	Bradley TIVER	Christopher KRAMER	Sebastiaan REYNHARDT
John RENTON	Lik Fang SIM	William WONG	Terng NG
Lachlan SMITH	John Tamaressis	Jaro BAULEKA	Yi SUN
Timothy FICHERA	Alastair HOWARD	Arsany GORGIOUS	Anil RANA
Trevor HUGHES	Cameron ARMITAGE	John McGUFFIN	John HENDRIKS
Michael McCaffrey	Jia NORRIS	Aly NEGM	Jeffrey MITCHELL
Moataz ABDELHAFIZ	Mark FULLER	Stuart HARVEY	Stephen WALTER
John GILBERT	Matthew BRADLEY	David REID	Scott WILLIAMSON
Victoria STEPHENSON	Jiwen LUO	Gavin LEE	Andrew STREET

WELCOME

Jonathan BAKER
Morteza GHAMGOSAR
Adrian CAHILL
Peter YIP
You SHI
Mikael MARTINSSON
Prakash POUDEL
Nigel POLA
Andrew STONEHOUSE
Matthew WHITE
Darren JONES
Brendan LEONARDI
Elizabeth KNAUTH
Edward ANKETELL
Ben GILES

Dean SMITH
Jessica RYAN
Matthew TAYLOR
Archie SENA
B. BALASUNDARAM
Alexander FRANKLIN
Ali HAMADE
Xiulong HU
Weiming ZHOU
Peter DRIML
Ali SALARVAND
Fanzhi WU
Tuan DANG
Muhammed MAHER
Holly WEBB

Peter STANFORD
Simon LEWIS
Michael GRIFFITHS
Brendan CLARK
Kevin WHITE
Thiyagaraajan SOUNDAIYA
Wael ELNAGAR
Graeme WILLIAMSON
Gregory DITCHBURN
Iain NGO
Hongzhi HUANG
Xiaoguang GU
Daniel HILL
Kamal ALI
Christopher RENZ

Mehmet NACAR
Njegoslav LALIC
Jamie French
Christopher MULLER
Xiaowei GUO
Paul SHAYEGAN
Adeel MEHDI
Govind MUDALIAR
Peter CHANT
Karl CARLEHALL
Sela PARLOUR
Andrew CHERUBIN
Elmer GATDULA
Toby MASON
Bryan GREIG

THANKS

Best wishes to the following RPEQs who have retired:

Mike ROLLO
John CLARKE

Bashir GABRIEL
Peter JUST

Cornelius VAN DER MEULEN
Paul SHELTON

CONNECT WITH
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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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