

MEDIA RELEASE

5 April 2018

New members appointed to the Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland

Associate Professor Nagaratnam Sivakugan and Suzy Cairney have been announced as the new members on the Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland (BPEQ), while Dawson Wilkie has been reappointed Chairperson and regional representative.

Dr Sivakugan replaces Professor Simon Biggs as academic representative and Ms Cairney joins as legal representative following the departure of Adam Stoker.

BPEQ Chairperson Dawson Wilkie said he looked forward to working with Dr Sivakugan and Ms Cairney.

“Dr Sivakugan and Ms Cairney are both highly experienced professionals who will bring new ideas and expertise to BPEQ”, said Mr Wilkie.

“Of note is Dr Sivakugan’s and Ms Cairney’s experience in mining and resources that will provide useful insight into a sector BPEQ has until recently had limited interaction with.

“On behalf of BPEQ and all registered professional engineers best wishes and thank you to Simon Biggs and Adam Stoker for their commitment to serving the profession of engineering and the Queensland public over the past three years.

“On a personal level I am also very pleased to be reappointed Chairperson and regional representative and am ready to push on with our many strategic priorities and initiatives.”

Board members Evelyn Storey, Yvonne Pengilly, Sarah Hansen and Peter Evans continue in their current positions.

Dr Sivakugan, Ms Cairney and Mr Wilkie have been appointed for a period of three years from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2021.

ENDS

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Associate Professor Nagaratnam Sivakugan*
Academic Representative

James Cook University's Dr Nagaratnam Sivakugan received his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, with First Class Honours, and MSCE and PhD from Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA. His writings include eight books, seven book chapters, 145 refereed international journal papers, 90 refereed international conference papers, and more than 100 consulting reports. His books, published through Cengage, Springer, Taylor & Francis, and J Ross, are adopted as text in many universities world-wide.

Dr Sivakugan has supervised 15 PhDs to completion, including two Cum Laudes, and has examined 30 Australian and overseas PhDs. He is a registered professional engineer of Queensland; a chartered professional engineer; and a Fellow of Engineers Australia, and American Society of Civil Engineers. He does substantial consulting work for the geotechnical and mining companies, and was a consultant to the World Bank. He is the Associate Editor for the *International Journal of Geotechnical Engineering* (UK) and *International Journal of Geosynthetics and Ground Engineering* (Springer), and serves in the editorial boards of *Canadian Geotechnical Journal* and *Indian Geotechnical Journal* (Springer). He is an ARC Ozreader, and is a reviewer for more than 20 international journals.

Ms Suzy Cairney*
Legal Representative

Suzy Cairney is a Partner in the Brisbane office of Holding Redlich. A projects and commercial lawyer with particular experience in project development and operational contracts in the ports, civil construction and resources sectors. She has experience both in Australia and overseas, and has advised government clients, principals, developers, contractors and operators on a wide range of major infrastructure projects.

Ms Cairney has previously worked in-house as a European Counsel for an international port operator in Belgium, as Corporate Counsel for a Queensland water government owned corporation and as in-house counsel to support the feasibility stage of a major new coal project for one of Australia's largest miners. Known for her practical common-sense approach and commerciality, Ms Cairney understands the drivers behind getting the deal done.

*profile information obtained from James Cook University and Holding Redlich website.