



NEWSLETTER

# ISSUE 34

## APRIL 2017

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## A WORD FROM THE REGISTRAR

It is an unfortunate reality that the importance of engineering to the community is best emphasised and understood during and after a natural disaster. Structural and civil RPEQs are going to play a vital role in performing structural assessments and in the rebuilding effort following Tropical Cyclone Debbie and its aftereffects. Several RPEQs have registered on the Queensland Building and Construction Commission's (QBCC) ['Cyclone Debbie - Building and Tradie Assistance' register](#); developed with the purpose of connecting people and communities effected by Tropical Cyclone Debbie with qualified and competent professionals and tradespersons. Structural RPEQs willing to offer their services can register to be placed on the 'Cyclone Debbie - Building and Tradie Assistance' register should email [cyclonedebbie@qbcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:cyclonedebbie@qbcc.qld.gov.au) or call 139 333.

Structural RPEQs in particular will benefit from reading an article prepared by the Australian Steel Institute's (ASI) Dr Peter Key. Dr Key's article is featured in this issue of the e-news and concerns Australia's new National Structural Steelwork Compliance Scheme.

Registration renewals for 2017/18 are well underway and all RPEQs should have received renewal information by now. RPEQs will have until 30 May to complete and submit their registration renewal.

This year's Regional Board meeting and the next planned registration roadshow will take place in Cairns in early May. The Board will host a meet and greet for local RPEQs at the Pullman Reef Hotel Casino from 5:00pm - 7:30pm on 3 May.



Also in May, BPEQ staff will return to Central Queensland to hold a lecture with Central Queensland University students and seminars with local engineering firms and present at the 6th Women in Engineering Leadership Summit in Brisbane and the IPWEAQ South-East Queensland Branch Conference in Logan.

Female RPEQs employed in public works fields maybe interested in joining IPWEAQ which has extended its [International Women's Day offer](#) for female RPEQs to join IPWEAQ and receive a complimentary year of membership.

We trust you enjoy and find the e-news useful and interesting; and please feel free to contact BPEQ at [admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au](mailto:admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au) or call (07) 3198 0000 if we can be of assistance.

**Kylie Mercer,**  
Registrar



## TOOLS OFFERED FOR MEETING NEW STEELWORK STANDARD

With increased onus on engineers' duty of care in designing and certifying fabricated steel structures, Australia's new National Structural Steelwork Compliance Scheme (NSSCS) makes available guidance materials for engineers to satisfy the requirements of AS/NZS 5131 Structural Steelwork – Fabrication and Erection, published in December.

With the formal release of AS/NZS 5131, the Australian Steel Institute (ASI) representing the complete steel supply chain makes freely available the new National Structural Steelwork Specification (NSSS) and associated Standard Drawing Notes (SDN) via its website.

These new tools have been specifically designed to assist structural engineers to implement AS/NZS 5131 and manage risk and duty of care requirements under the Workplace Health and Safety Act (Safe design of Structures) whilst having confidence that the process in time becomes 'accepted industry practice'.

Prior to the publication of AS/NZS 5131, Australia was the only country in the developed world without a dedicated stand-alone Standard for fabrication and erection of structural steelwork.

Under the NSSCS, steel fabricators are audited and certified by the independent body, Steelwork Compliance Australia (SCA) to 'Construction Categories' that link right back to the structure importance levels from the National Construction Code (NCC). Like the NCC, these categories are ordered to address progressively higher levels of risk.

The benefits of AS/NZS 5131 and the NSSCS include:

- Providing the means to make a clear quantitative risk based categorisation of projects.
- Providing a practical tool that in time becomes 'accepted industry practice'
- Helping to manage your risk and your duty of care under the Workplace Health and Safety Act (Safe design of structures)

For structural engineers, there are essentially three simple steps to engage with the NSSCS which amount to:

- Nominating the 'Construction Category' for the structure or component.
- Ensuring that, for the scope of work under contract, the construction specification has suitable wording to reference the Standard with the necessary project-specific detail selections. The new NSSS is an ideal resource for this purpose.

- Covering use of AS/NZS 5131 Structural Steelwork – Fabrication and Erection Including under Item 3 (Basis of Certification) in Form 15 - Compliance Certificate for Building Design or Specification (suggested form of words included below\*).

- Checking submittals for materials and fabrication to confirm conformity. When using certified fabricators, much of this is already configured.

The NSSS along with the Standard Drawing Notes facilitate uniform and consistent reference to AS/NZS 5131 and reduce misalignment of expectations and contractual issues. NATSPEC is also revising its specifications consistent with AS/NZS 5131 and the NSSS.

The guidance documents were released after peer reviews by several prominent engineering practices including Technical Director at Arcadis and RPEQ, John Merrick who praised the new tools as creating greater efficiencies and confidence, providing time savings, a uniform approach, reference standards and methods and industry benchmarking. Mr Merrick also pointed out the value of reference standards and methods and industry benchmarking for the younger engineers coming through in the industry and learning about steelwork design.

The NSSS and SDN are available for free download in editable format from: <http://steel.org.au/key-issues/compliance/national-structural-steelwork-specification/>

For more details on the NSSCS see: <http://steel.org.au/key-issues/compliance/asi-in-compliance/>



ASI's National Technical  
Development Manager Dr Peter Key.



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## CHANGES TO 457 VISA AND SKILLS LIST

Earlier this month, the Commonwealth Government announced the 457 visa scheme would be abolished and replaced with two new temporary skills visas — a two-year visa and a more specialised one for four years targeted at higher skills.

The new visa schemes would require applicants to have greater English proficiency, two years of relevant prior work experience and complete a criminal history check. Employers seeking to engage employees under the new visa system would first have to carry out more rigorous domestic labour market testing.

Approximately 200 occupations have been removed as approved occupations under a new Medium and Long-term Strategic Skills List (MLTSSL), including several engineering or related occupations:

- Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (Avionics)
- Building and Engineering Technicians
- Electronic Engineering Draftsperson
- Electronic Engineering Technician
- Engineering Patternmaker
- Food Technologist
- Gas or Petroleum Operator
- Geophysicist
- ICT Support and Test Engineers
- Mechanical Engineering Draftsperson
- Metallurgist
- Petroleum Engineer

Chemical Engineer, Civil Engineering Technologist, Electronics Engineer, Industrial Engineer, Materials Engineer and Plant Engineer remain on the MLTSSL, but are only available under Skilled – Independent (subclass 189), Temporary Graduate (subclass 485) and Skilled-Regional (Provisional) (subclass 489) – Family nominated visa programs.

Persons already employed under a 457 visa or from an occupation previously included on a skills list will not be affected by the proposed changes. Meanwhile demand for overseas-trained civil, structural, transport and electrical engineers is expected to remain strong and these professions remain unaffected by the changes.

For more information on visa changes visit <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/457-abolition-replacement>, or to access the list of eligible skilled occupations visit <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/Work/Skills-assessment-and-assessing-authorities/skilled-occupations-lists>.



## 2017 SURVEY RESULTS

RPEQs were recently invited to take part in the annual survey to track BPEQ's operations and performance and gather feedback from the profession.

The survey results demonstrated ongoing support for registration, improvement in the awareness of RPEQs amongst all stakeholders, greater compliance with the PE Act, more clarity regarding legislative requirements for engineers and BPEQ's improved profile and relationships with key stakeholders.

Improvements from 2016 survey to 2017 survey included:

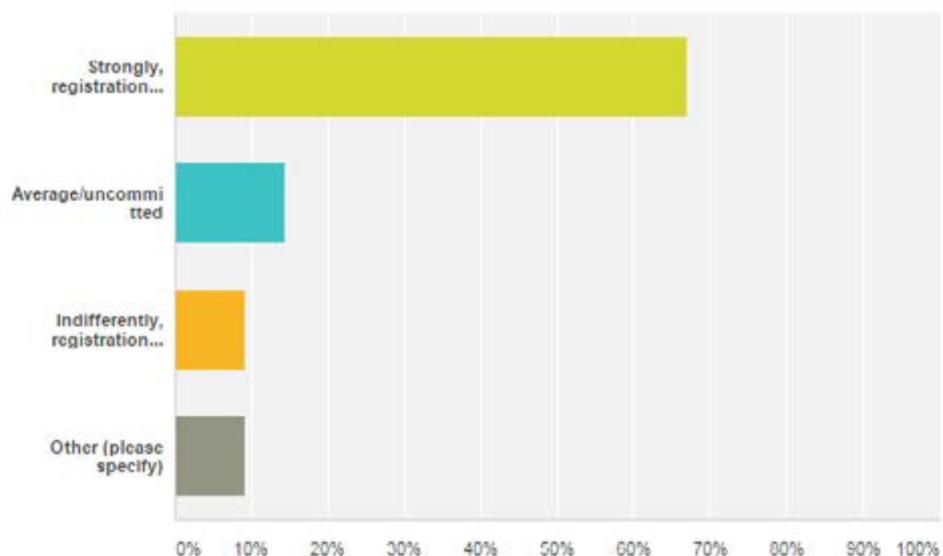
- 53 per cent of respondents became aware of the need to be registered through an employer, up from 50 per cent; awareness through BPEQ or university was steady at 7 per cent and 5 per cent respectively
- 67 per cent of respondents strongly supported registration for engineers, up from 61 per cent
- Just 6 per cent of respondents indicated their obligations under the PE Act were unclear; down from 9 per cent
- 55 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the operation and performance of BPEQ; up from 48 per cent

Ongoing issues of concern for RPEQs included:

- the need for BPEQ to better enforce the PE Act and address unregistered practice
- the introduction of pre-emptive investigative and audit functions for BPEQ
- BPEQ focusing more attention on large-scale engineering operations not complying with the PE Act
- BPEQ providing practical guidance on what is a professional engineering service
- improved services and support for RPEQs
- legislative amendments to protect the title 'engineer'
- legislative amendments to obligate employers to ensure engineers are registered and comply with the PE Act

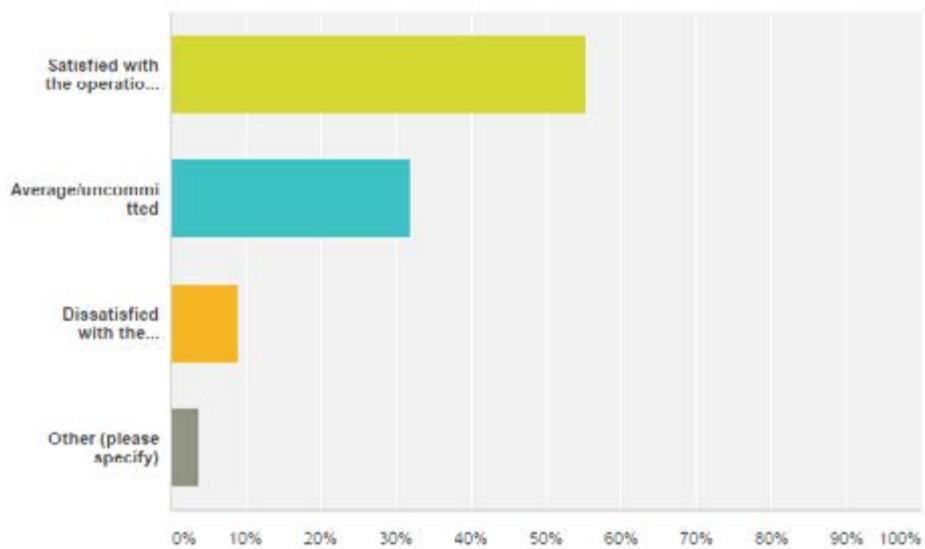
BPEQ appreciates the feedback provided by RPEQs and is firmly committed to making improvements to its operations and performance

### How strongly do you support the RPEQ system and is registration beneficial for the profession?

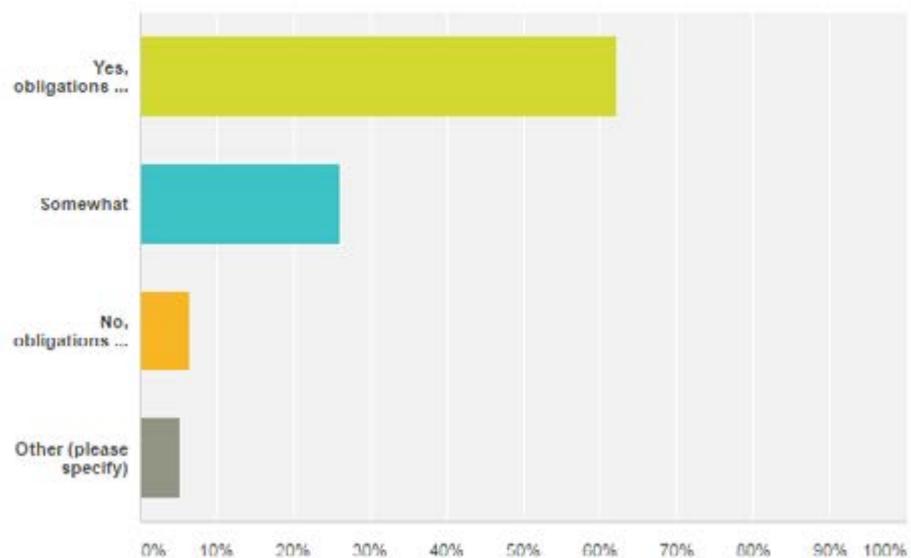




### How satisfied are you with the operation and services offered by BPEQ?



### Do you believe your obligations as an engineer carrying out professional engineering services in Queensland or for Queensland are made clear by the Professional Engineers Act 2002?





## 6TH WOMEN IN ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2017

The [6th Women in Engineering Leadership Summit](#) is just a few weeks away.

BPEQ is sponsoring this year's event and will be represented at the summit by Deputy Chair Evelyn Storey and Registrar Kylie Mercer. The summit aims to address the unique challenges that women face in the engineering profession and provides both practical and proven strategies to overcome obstacles in order to facilitate leadership excellence.

**Venue: Mercure Hotel, Brisbane**

**Dates: 23-24 May 2017**

To register for the summit email [registration@liquidlearning.com.au](mailto:registration@liquidlearning.com.au) or call (02) 8239 9711.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST RPEQS

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

Ahmad Muhsin	Andrew Potts	Riaan Venter	Matthew Zillmann
Dayne Habermann	Richard Walsh	Russell Jackson	Ashok Devaraj
Stephen De Martin	Omar Khudair	Ronald Fricker	Dinesh Nutalapati
Supun Perera	Hayden Short	Zeshan Ahmed	Scott Robinson
Tian Yu Zhang	Armin Bajwa	Matthew Mammone	Steven Costin
Keith Attard	Maria Ko	Anthony Wood	Clement Hooley
Jerome Catbagan	James Devine	Ashnik Nanoo	Jamey Mitchelson
Muhammad Asif	Bicky Shakya	Stefano Odorico	Jason McConochie
Vladimir Nemeč	James Fay	Reza Marzooghi	Peter White
Ronald Yan	Seng Hong Ang	Colin Salter	Barry Young
Timothy Boulton	Daniel Sullivan	Alastair Chapman	Jonathan Dennis
Daniel Foo	Chunseuk Kang	Mohamed Aboulebda	Adrian Zatta
Mark Wilson	Kjetil Pederson	George Lazendic	Taysir Al Muti
Cyriac Mukkada	Michael Maher	Siu On Tang	Martijn Klabbers
Callum Menzies	Justin Watts	Matthew Godwin	
Savas Samat	Loke Wong	Vladimir Burmaz	
Ian Clarkson	David Evans	Adam Miller	

## 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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