



NEWSLETTER

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A WORD FROM THE REGISTRAR

The 2016 RPEQ election will feature a record number of candidates vying to join the Board.

This year, 61 RPEQs nominated, just nine years ago there was only one nomination. The large field of candidates and their quality is indicative of the growth and active engagement of our RPEQs.

Many of the candidates expressed an eagerness to support and educate their peers. Supporting and educating young engineers about the registration process is the aim of the RPEQ Champion initiative. In 2015 BPEQ introduced its first Champion Wayne Gibson, a mining engineer from Emerald working for Rio Tinto. Joining Wayne as an RPEQ Champion is Tom Gouldie, who was the very first petroleum engineer, registered by BPEQ. Tom wants to use his experience to promote registration amongst his fellow petroleum engineers.

I myself have also been busy promoting registration and educating engineers about the registration system. In the last month I have met with engineers from Aurecon, Moreton Bay Regional Council, Energex and AECOM and addressed Engineers Australia's office bearer induction day. If you or your organisation have questions about the Act and registration, or simply want a refresher, contact BPEQ to arrange a presentation.

We hope you enjoy the February e-news. If there is any matter you want to raise or feedback you want to provide please contact BPEQ via email at admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au or call 07 3198 0000.

Kylie Mercer
Registrar





WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST RPEQS

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

Brent Keel, Jim Heaslop, Daniel Caldwell, Zoe Eather, David Yule, Richard Ogilvie, Jackson Ziebarth, Rakeshkumar Patel, George Isaac, Carlo Di Mauro, Jenny Loveday, Scott Power, Mark Taimre, Abdullah-Al Faraque, Rene du Buisson, Andrew Rousek, Farbod Maher, Paul Overell, Geoffrey Atherton, Craig Tenkate, Roland Dymond, Kaveh Hemmati, Andrew Wachtel, Johan Putters, Derek MacKenzie, Robert Casimaty, Cameron Lattimore, Mark Hesse, An Nguyen, Jacinta Mallam, Muhandiram Ranatunga, Laurence Allan, Antonio Cinanni, Shemi Rubin, Vijendran Candasamy, Fabio Rojas, Peter Ritchie, Christopher Devine, Matthew Scott, Johannes Van Herel, Syed Hussain, Massimiliano Gregori, Hari Kannan, Juancho Bauyon, Christopher Fraser, Russell White, Robert Brown, Bart Ozog, Rene

Arens, Neme Pang, Carlos Ramirez, Larry Platt, Lucy Dahl, Syed Sharif, Hossein Kordbacheh, Zim Solo, Claire Bennett, Mark Tilley, Austin Morris, Nicholas Cole, Gerard Vink, Daniel Lynch, Stephen Mazza, Muhammad Imran, Duncan Crook, Christopher Ryan, Eric Ancich, Grant Steinback, Alistair Fletcher, Heshala Perera, Rama Valluru, Livio Salvestro, Ulrich Magura, Leslie Millist, Mark Robertson, Rahul Bansal, Jeremy Wagner, Omid Ostovar, Kentaro Imai, Natasha Bosman-Gertenbach, Gary Farrow, Dale Engler, Iwona Parker, Ian Sharp, Ramaishwaran Natkunanathan, Timothy Joyce, Victor Esparza, Carlo De Byl, Philippe Ricafort, Stephen Williams, Colin Prowse, Praveen Pillai, Sanesh Chidipothu, Adam Langman

CASE NOTES

BOARD CAUTIONS ENGINEER OVER LACK OF SPECIFICITY IN WORDING OF FILL CERTIFICATION

The Board issued a formal caution to an RPEQ as a result of their conduct in inspecting and testing fill at a residential subdivision and issuing a Level One Controlled Fill Certificate for the fill.

After a complaint was made about the engineer's conduct by the relevant local government authority, the Board decided to investigate the authority's concerns that the engineer had certified the entirety of the fill but had in fact only inspected and tested a small part of it.

The Board found that the engineer had in fact only inspected and tested fill for a small number of lots at the subdivision, and had given the Level One Controlled Fill Certificate intending to certify the fill for those lots only. The Board found, however, that the certificate did not clearly indicate the particular fill it applied to. The certification could therefore be held out to be for the fill for the entire subdivision. The certificate was worded as follows:

I hereby certify (Level 1 supervision) that the fill for the above project [the subdivision] has been completed in accordance with clause x of the Development Approval.

The Board found that with careful reference to the bore logs and other information that accompanied the

certificate it could be ascertained that the certificate related only to the part of the fill that the engineer had actually inspected and tested. However, it was determined that a lay person could reasonably interpret the certificate as being a certification for the fill for the entire subdivision. The Board found that the certificate had been held out to local council (not by the engineer and it appears without the engineer's knowledge) to be for the entirety of the fill, which the lack of specificity of the certificate's wording made possible. Council relied on the certificate as confirming the fill for the entirety of the subdivision was controlled fill when that was not what the certificate was intended to confirm. The Board noted the possible implications to subsequent footing systems designed for the site.

A key element of the engineer's certification was that it applied only to fill on certain lots of the subdivision. Failing to state as such in the certification was, in the Board's view, a critical failure. The public is entitled to rely on engineering documentation created and signed by an RPEQ with confidence that the matters stated in the documentation have been attended to and appropriate skill and care brought to bear on them. Had a member of the public without the expertise of the BPEQ investigator relied on the certificate, they would



have been entitled to believe, in error, that the engineer had inspected and tested the entirety of the fill at the subdivision. The Board found that the engineer should have issued the certification in a more prudent manner by ensuring the certificate was clear about its scope, to the following effect:

I hereby certify (Level 1 supervision) that the fill for the following lots of above project [the subdivision] has been completed in accordance with Clause x of the Development Approval:

1. *[list the lots that were inspected and tested and that are being certified]*

The Board found that the wording the engineer used on the certificate was generally insufficient. It found that the engineer's professional peers and the public would expect the engineer to be clear about which lots they were certifying. The Board therefore found engineer's conduct was unsatisfactory professional conduct, being conduct of a lesser standard than that which might have reasonably been expected of them by the public and their professional peers.

Although the Board made a finding of unsatisfactory professional conduct against the engineer, it identified

a variety of mitigating factors. The engineer cooperated fully with the investigation, making submissions to the Board and participating in an honest and frank interview with the BPEQ investigator. The engineer acknowledged the inappropriateness of their conduct and took responsibility for the error. The certificate was not held out as applying to the entirety of the fill by the engineer, but by a third party, and that was done without the engineer's knowledge or consent. The engineer demonstrated that they had put into place measures to ensure that future certificates they issue are more carefully worded.

The Board concluded that the failing was a less severe example of unsatisfactory professional conduct and, given the significant mitigating factors, decided to issue the engineer with a formal caution and put them on notice to be mindful of their wording of certifications in the future.

For more information:

- For legal enquiries: 07 3198 0006
- For media enquiries: 07 3198 0004

RECORD NUMBER OF CANDIDATES TO STAND FOR ELECTION

A record number of RPEQs are standing as candidates for election to the Board this year. In total 61 RPEQs put their hand up to represent their peers.

The elected RPEQ representative serves on the Board for a period of three years. The election process was first introduced in 2007 when Peter Way was elected unopposed. Three years later Mike Marley came out on top in a head-to-head election with Peter Way. And in 2013 Julie Mitchell was elected from a field of more than 50 candidates.

The high calibre of candidates standing for election in 2016 guarantees the good work and committed representation provided by Julie Mitchell over the last three years will continue. The candidates include engineers from diverse fields of engineering with extensive local and international working experience, and 10 per cent of candidates are women.

This year the election is being conducted through an online ballot, with BPEQ engaging a third party to provide the election service.

All current RPEQs are eligible to vote in the election which is open until **4:30pm 14 March 2016**. To vote RPEQs will receive an email from the Australian Election Company and be required to enter their RPEQ number and a unique pin assigned by the Australian Election Company.

For the full list of candidates click [here](#). If you have not received an email with voting information contact the Australian Election Company via email help@austelect.com or call 1800 224 420.



Are you proud to be an RPEQ?
Contact BPEQ via admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au or call 07 3198 0000 to become an RPEQ Champion and help guide up and coming engineers.

INTRODUCING TOM GOULDIE, RPEQ CHAMPION

BPEQ welcomes its newest RPEQ Champion, Tom Gouldie. As the first engineer registered in the area of petroleum engineering Tom is well placed to guide new RPEQs.

He already works with engineers and companies to promote and increase registration, now, as an RPEQ Champion Tom is looking forward to growing the number of registered petroleum engineers even further.

Tom's professional career began with Chevron in the United States. At Chevron he gained significant experience in the United States, Saudi Arabia and Western Australia. After migrating to Australia, Tom worked for the Western Australian Department of Mines and held several senior level positions with Santos until 2012. He is now the Principal Consultant for Wellsite Safety Management Pty Ltd based in Adelaide.

To contact Tom, email tom.gouldie@gmail.com.

Our original RPEQ Champion Wayne Gibson is also available to meet and discuss registration with engineers in the Emerald area. Wayne can be contacted at wayne.gibson@riotinto.com or by calling 0457 519 723.

STEM CONNECTORS

Last year BPEQ endorsed the Queensland University of Technology's (QUT) pilot project *STEM Connectors*. The project aims to facilitate new 'virtual' connections between researchers and professionals in the STEM disciplines and schools across Queensland.

Under the proposed model, alumni, STEM professionals and current STEM researchers at QUT will be approached to register their interest in sharing their expertise with school communities. Using built-in search facilities, teachers can connect to an expert in a given STEM field, who will then virtually join a class (through Skype or a similar online portal) in an 'Ask an expert' session and/or scientific presentation.

School teachers will benefit from being able to connect with STEM researchers with expertise in a given area, much like the way journalists use media databases to source experts. Each registered STEM expert will be required to include a short video (1-2mins) outlining

their specialist expertise relevant to the national curriculum, which will act as an indicator as to their suitability to present to a given audience.

With BPEQ supporting *STEM Connectors*, RPEQs have the chance to contribute to and inform the development of the project by sharing their [insight and completing a short survey](#).

Another positive of *STEM Connectors* is the potential to promote and encourage more young people to consider a career in engineering.



JASON'S STORY

Maintaining public and workplace safety is a key objective of the Professional Engineers Act and a focus for BPEQ.

To highlight the importance of workplace safety, the need for effective communication between subcontractors on construction sites, and appropriate supervision and supportive mentoring of young workers, particularly in engineering and construction, BPEQ is helping to promote Jason's Story.

Jason's Story is a short film about Jason Garrels. Jason was a 20 year old apprentice working at a construction site in Clermont in 2012. He was electrocuted when a switchboard he had been carrying came into contact with live wires after cable covering slipped off.

[Click here](#) to watch Jason's Story.

BOARD OF
**PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEERS**
OF QUEENSLAND

Is your
RPEQ status
up to date?
Registration
renewals
begin in April

CLICK HERE >>
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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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