



NEWSLETTER

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A WORD FROM THE REGISTRAR

Welcome to the first BPEQ e-news for 2016. After a short break BPEQ staff are back at work ahead of a busy few months.



Assistant Registrar Gary Stirling will be leaving BPEQ for short period to take some well-earned leave and then join the Board of Architects as acting registrar. While Gary is away on leave Kaine Barton from the

Department of Housing and Public Works will be filling in at BPEQ.

A priority for BPEQ staff this month is the impending election of an RPEQ to the Board. Nominations for candidates opened in December 2015 and so far the response from RPEQs has been strong. Any RPEQ wanting to nominate for election to the Board has until 4:00pm 29 January 2016 to do so.

In February BPEQ is hosting the first of its planned CPD seminars. *Transitioning from technical specialist to people manager* will be held on 26 February 2016 at 80 George Street. For those RPEQs registered to attend please ensure you make payment to the Board by 5 February to guarantee your place. After the great interest in Transitioning from technical specialist to people manager BPEQ is considering holding another seminar on the same topic later in the year.

RPEQs that missed out on attending *Transitioning from technical specialist to people manager* in February will have first preference to come along to the second seminar.

Next month I will be meeting with engineers from a number of companies and organisations to discuss the *Professional Engineers Act* and registration. If you or your organisation have questions about the Act and registration, or simply want a refresher, contact BPEQ to arrange a presentation.

On a personal note, my first few weeks in the role of Registrar have been both interesting and challenging. This month I have been sitting down with our stakeholders to get a better understanding of the key issues in the profession and how we can continue to work together for the benefit of engineers.

Of course our most important stakeholders are the 11,000 plus registered professional engineers from Queensland, interstate and overseas, and 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



IT'S YOUR TURN – ACHIEVE RPEQ



Attendees hear from Board member and RPEQ Julie Mitchell and fellow RPEQs Cangie Wu and Stacy Curtis.

Present and future RPEQs turned out in numbers for *It's Your Turn – Achieve RPEQ* in late November, a joint BPEQ and QUT Women in Engineering Alumni Network initiative aimed at raising awareness of registration and supporting women in engineering.

The crowd of close to 100 heard from Julie Mitchell, DTMR Chief Engineer and RPEQ representative on the Board, Santos engineer Cangie Wu and Stacy Curtis from Cardno. Julie, Cangie and Stacy provided practical advice and tips on getting registered and shared their professional insight and personal work experiences with student engineers from QUT.

In her speech Julie spoke about her journey in engineering and reiterated the need for the engineering profession to work as whole to address the disparity between women and men and provide better support for women studying and practicing engineering.

It's Your Turn – Achieve RPEQ was the first event planned as part of a two year partnership between BPEQ and QUT groups, Women in Engineering Alumni Network and Girls in Engineering Making Statements.

BPEQ thanks Women in Engineering Alumni Network President Erin Thomas who took the lead in organising *It's Your Turn – Achieve RPEQ*.

MEET THE BOARD – SIMON BIGGS

January 2016 marks one year since Professor Simon Biggs was appointed to the Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland as the academic representative. Simon has been the Executive Dean for the Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Information Technology at the University of Queensland since June 2014; leading and representing one of the university's largest faculties, managing staff and budgets and coordinating academic programs.

Before arriving in Queensland, Simon was based at the University of Leeds (UK) for 12 years where he worked in the Chemical Engineering School. His specific areas of interest are in the behaviour of solids in liquids and he has worked extensively on nuclear waste management, minerals processing and the manufacture of complex formulated products.

Simon is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in the United Kingdom, is internationally recognised for his significant achievements in the application of colloid and interface science and has authored hundreds of peer reviewed publications.





RPEQS PICKING UP THE SLACK

At some time in your career it is likely you will have to complete a project started by another engineer.

For instance, a client brings you an incomplete project that was started by another engineer at another firm; or perhaps your employer assigns you to another project you have had no previous involvement with. However you come to be in the situation, you should be aware of some of the risks involved in taking up another engineer's partially completed work.

One risk is that you were not involved from the outset in consulting with the client/employer about the nature and scope of the project. As any experienced professional knows, the initial consultation process with a client/employer about a project is critical to ensure all parties understand the nature and scope of the work. Although there may be a scoping document from the client/employer or notes from the previous engineer, nothing is equivalent to being involved from the conception of the project. There is every chance that you may have missed something in the initial discussions that was omitted from the project brief that you need to know to finish the project to the client/employer's satisfaction.

There is also risk in relying on any assumptions, calculations and specifications the previous engineer has made in the design process. Unless the previous engineer left detailed notes about the project, you may not be able to properly understand why the engineer made certain assumptions, calculations and specifications. It is in your best interest, and that of the client/employer, for you to validate, and reassess if necessary, the accuracy of any assumptions, calculations and specifications made by the previous engineer.

The Board expects that as an RPEQ you will carry out your work in a professional and competent way, to a standard that might reasonably be expected of you by the public and your professional peers, while exercising adequate knowledge, skill, judgement, and care. The Board also expects that you will comply with the minimum levels of professional conduct set out in the Code of Practice for RPEQs. In taking on a partially completed project, the Board would expect a registered professional engineer to acquire an appropriate level of understanding of the nature and scope of the project and take reasonable steps to validate the assumptions, calculations, and specifications of the previous engineer.

What is reasonable will depend on the nature and complexity of the project, but the Board considers it is best practice for registered professional engineers to consider the following actions when taking up and completing a partially completed project:

- 1. Initial discussion with client/employer.** Your client/employer should be informed about the issues involved with you taking up the incomplete project. Talk with your client/employer about the fact that you may need to revisit the work done by the previous engineer to confirm you understand the nature and scope of the work, to check the accuracy of their assumptions, calculations, and specifications, and generally ensure you have an adequate understanding of where the project is currently situated.
- 2. Discussion with the former engineer.** You should attempt to discuss the project with the former engineer. Your discussion should include the nature and scope of the project and any assumptions, calculations, and specifications they made. The Board expects former engineers to reasonably endeavour to make themselves available to discuss their former projects with engineers who are taking them up.
- 3. Risk assessment.** After speaking with the client/employer and the former engineer, you should conduct a risk assessment to determine how and what aspects of the assumptions, calculations, and specifications should be reassessed.
- 4. Inform client/employer of consequences of disregarded advice.** You should inform your client/employer about the results of your risk assessment and explain the steps you need to take to validate aspects of the former engineer's work and why. If your client/employer disagrees with your advice you should inform them (preferably in writing) about the possible consequences of not doing so. You are also welcome to telephone the Board to discuss your situation.

For further information and assistance contact BPEQ via email at admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au or call 07 3198 0000.



RPEQ ELECTION, ALL YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

The response from RPEQs has been extremely positive since BPEQ opened nominations for the election of an RPEQ to the Board to replace outgoing member Julie Mitchell.



Current Board (pictured left to right) Mike Brady, Simon Biggs, Dawson Wilkie, Julie Mitchell, Michael Duff, Adam Stoker and Greg McLean

With Julie's period of appointment coming to an end in early 2016, another RPEQ will have the opportunity to contribute to the profession and help shape regulation and policies that impact engineers.

At the time of writing 25 RPEQs had nominated to stand as a candidate for election. BPEQ continues to receive great interest from RPEQs, as well as some questions about the specifics of the election.

WHY IS THERE AN ELECTION?

Section 82 of the *Professional Engineers Act 2002* specifies that one Board member be a 'registered professional engineer elected under this Act' who serves for a period of three years. Having an elected RPEQ on the Board ensures the interests of RPEQs are well represented.

HOW WILL THE ELECTION BE CONDUCTED?

BPEQ is currently finalising arrangements for the election process and expects to be able to announce specific details next week. RPEQs will receive voting information and instructions in the coming weeks.

WHEN CAN I VOTE?

Once voting materials are distributed RPEQs will have until **14 March 2016** to cast their vote.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO NOMINATE AS A CANDIDATE AND VOTE IN THE ELECTION?

All current RPEQs are able to nominate for election and vote.

HOW DO I NOMINATE AS A CANDIDATE?

To nominate as a candidate you will need to fill in a nomination form and provide a 200 word written statement supporting your candidacy. The purpose of the statement is to provide background on yourself to inform the Board and RPEQs who vote for the candidate. It may include your previous and current

work experience, qualifications, career achievements, what you hope to achieve by joining the Board or a vision statement. Your completed nomination form and written statement must be provided to BPEQ by **4:00pm 29 January 2016**.

ARE THERE ANY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH SERVING ON THE BOARD?

No. Board members are entitled to remuneration and costs of travel to attend Board meetings and accommodation while away from home will be covered or reimbursed.

WHAT IS THE WORKLOAD LIKE?

The role of the Board is to administer the *Professional Engineers Act 2002*, assess applications for registration, register eligible engineers, consider complaints and where necessary carry out investigations, provide advice to the Minister for Housing and Public Works on various issues surrounding the operation of the Act and develop strategies and policies related to the registration of engineers and the profession.

The Board meets 10 times per year (nine Board meetings and one strategy meeting). The length of the Board meetings varies and some may last a full day. Most of the meetings are held at the Board offices in Brisbane, with two of the meetings held in a regional locality to provide engagement opportunities to engineers in these areas. Most Board work is conducted during the meetings, however, members may occasionally be required to attend to matters outside of meeting times or represent the Board at industry events.

For more information on the election contact BPEQ via email at admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au or call 07 3198 0000.



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](#).

T 07 3198 0000 E admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au

Level 15, 53 Albert Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 15213 CITY EAST QLD 4002

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