



NEWSLETTER

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THIS ISSUE:

1. WELCOME FROM THE MINISTER
2. A WORD FROM THE REGISTRAR
3. REGIONAL BOARD MEETING IN EMERALD
4. CASE NOTES: THE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS OF QUEENSLAND VS C AND H
5. RPEQS EVERYWHERE
6. MEET THE BOARD - MIKE BRADY
7. REMINDER TO UPDATE REGISTRATION DETAILS

WELCOME FROM THE MINISTER



It's a pleasure to be writing to you as the new Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation with responsibility for the Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland.

The Palaszczuk Government is focused on making sure our state retains a strong skills base to build a strong economy. Key to this is keeping skilled engineers here in Queensland.

To do this we need long-term planning and a coordinated approach with the private sector to deliver a consistent flow of infrastructure projects.

During our first year of government we will deliver a comprehensive long-term infrastructure plan to provide certainty around investment decisions and prevent infrastructure backlogs and the accompanying cost escalations.

We will also be establishing a new independent statutory authority – Building Queensland – which will provide expert advice in identifying and prioritising infrastructure projects.

The independent recommendations from Building Queensland will ensure the Government can deliver the projects that give the most benefits and are the best value for money for all Queenslanders.

Building Queensland will also work with business and industry to develop a new best practice framework for assessing the benefits, costs and risks of infrastructure delivery.

During my first few weeks in the job I've already met with representatives from BPEQ. I look forward to building a strong working relationship with the Board and industry.

Hon. Leeanne Enoch MP
Minister for Housing and Public Works
and Minister for Science and Innovation



A WORD FROM THE REGISTRAR

As you would be aware there has been a change of government in Queensland and the Hon Leeanne Enoch has been appointed the new Minister for Housing and Public Works with responsibility for the Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland.

Earlier this month, Chairman Dawson Wilkie and I met with the Minister to discuss the Board and engineering generally. The Minister affirmed the new government's commitment to retaining the Professional Engineers Act and recognised the importance of accreditation in the engineering profession.

I also had the opportunity to travel to Mackay and Biloela this month to promote the Act and discuss important issues in the engineering profession. It was a great pleasure to be guest speaker along with BMA's John Mc Clintock at the Resource Industry Network Luncheon in Mackay. Meanwhile the focus of discussion at the IPWEAQ Central Queensland Branch Conference in Biloela was 'Delivering More with Less'.

I am available to conduct presentations on the Professional Engineers Act and its requirements for any organisation, so please feel free to get in touch if you or your organisation is interested.

I am regularly told about the usefulness of the case notes we include in these e-newsletters. In this edition we have a case about two unregistered fire engineers based in New South Wales who produced a fire engineering report and conducted an analysis and assessment of a multi-storey development in Brisbane.

As always I hope you find this e-newsletter interesting and informative. If you have any feedback or require assistance, please contact the Board on 07 3198 0000 or via admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au.

REGIONAL BOARD MEETING IN EMERALD

The Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland will take to the road in May for its first regional meeting of the year. Emerald has been selected to host the Board Meeting and a 'meet and greet' for local RPEQs.

The Central Highlands is a major region in the resources and mining sector, as such it is also home to many RPEQs.

The Board is focused on getting out to regional Queensland to connect with engineers and discuss issues important to them and their profession.

Previous regional meetings in Toowoomba and Gladstone have attracted great interest from local engineers and have been an informative and useful exercise for RPEQs and the Board itself.

As part of the 'meet and greet', the Board's Registrar Clare Murray will be conducting a short workshop on the Act to update RPEQs and give them the chance to ask any questions they have.

The event is free and attendees can also enjoy drinks and light refreshments whilst they mingle.

Date: Thursday, 7 May 2015

Time: 5:15 pm to 7:30 pm

Venue: Emerald Explorers Inn
Gregory Highway, Emerald.

To RSVP email executiveassistant@bpeq.qld.gov.au. Please indicate if you have any particular dietary requirements and we will ensure you are accommodated.



CASE NOTE

THE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS OF QUEENSLAND VS C AND H

Magistrates Court convicts interstate engineers for carrying out work for a Queensland project when unregistered and without RPEQ supervision—confirmation of extraterritorial application of the Professional Engineers Act.

The Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland has successfully prosecuted two unregistered engineers in the Magistrates Court of Queensland for offences against section 115(1) of the *Professional Engineers Act 2002* (Qld) (**the Act**)—carrying out professional engineering services when not an RPEQ—committed in the course of their provision of engineering services from interstate for a Queensland project.

The engineers were involved in the preparation of a fire engineering report concerning a major development in Brisbane. One engineer prepared the report and the other supervised its preparation and reviewed it. They carried out the work in New South Wales, and the deliverables were provided to the building contractor for the project at its New South Wales office. At no time did the engineers physically carry out work in Queensland. The only connection with Queensland was that the project the subject of the work was situated in Brisbane.

The engineers fully cooperated with the Board during the prosecution. They admitted that they prepared and reviewed the report respectively, that in doing so they carried out professional engineering services and that they were unregistered and not under the direct supervision of a responsible RPEQ. They

entered a plea of guilty to the charges at the earliest opportunity.

The Court accepted that both engineers were highly qualified and noted that there was no suggestion that the work done by either engineer created safety risks. The Court also accepted that neither engineer was aware for the need for RPEQ registration in Queensland, and that the supervising engineer has now sought, and obtained, registration to allow him to lawfully carry out or directly supervise professional engineering services in Queensland in the future.

The Court's guilty verdict is consistent with the Board's position that: 'Any person who provides professional engineering services in Queensland or any person who designs a building, plant, machinery or product for use in Queensland must be registered as a registered professional engineer (RPEQ), unless they are acting under the direct supervision of an RPEQ'.

Consequent on the pleas of guilty entered by the engineers, the Court fined the engineer who prepared the report \$1,200 and the engineer who reviewed the report \$2,000. The Court ordered that the engineers pay the Board's costs in the sum of \$4,000 each. No conviction was recorded.

More detailed information about the decision is available on the Board's website, visit www.bpeq.qld.gov.au.

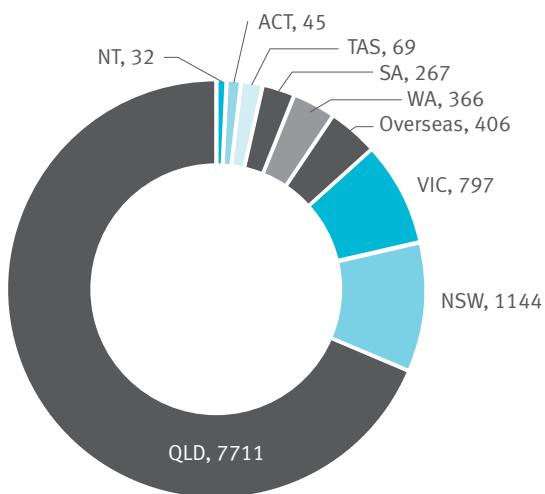
Note: Section 6A of the Act now expressly clarifies the Act's extraterritorial application to the full extent of the extraterritorial legislative power of the Parliament.

RPEQS EVERYWHERE

Engineering can be an itinerant profession and it is not uncommon for an engineer in Western Australia to be registered as an RPEQ and providing engineering services for a project in Queensland.

So just where are all the 10,837 RPEQs based?

Unsurprisingly, Queenslanders make up the majority of the 10,837 registered engineers, but there has been significant growth in recent years in the number of RPEQs coming from New South Wales, Victoria and overseas. While many current interstate and overseas RPEQs do the bulk of their work outside of Queensland, they are keeping their registration, which is recognition of the significant profession value the title "RPEQ" holds.





MEET THE BOARD – MIKE BRADY



This month we profile the Board's representative from Engineers Australia (Queensland), Michael (Mike) Brady.

Mike started his career at Sinclair Knight & Partners, St Leonards NSW and brings over 30 years of engineering, management, design and construction experience in government and the private sector to the Board. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering and a Masters of Local Government Management from the University of Technology, Sydney and a Graduate Diploma of Local Government Engineering. Mike is both accredited as an RPEQ and Certified Practising Program Director (CPPD). Most of his career has been spent in local government in New South Wales and Queensland, as well as senior roles with Queensland Main Roads. He currently leads the Infrastructure Services Group within Toowoomba Regional Council, responsible for delivering an annual operational and capital program of over \$200 million.

Prior to joining Toowoomba Regional Council in August 2011, Mike was employed with Brisbane City Council in a number of senior roles. Mike is an active member of the Institute of Public Works Engineers Association of Queensland and was previously a member on the Institute of Public Works Engineers Association (NSW) State Committee. He has also served as the President of Engineers Australia (Queensland) in 2010 and still sits on the Engineers Australia (Queensland) Committee and as a Queensland representative on the National Congress. He is also the Engineers Australia (Queensland) representative on the Board.

A REMINDER FOR RPEQS TO UPDATE THEIR CONTACT DETAILS

With renewals approaching, we must have your current contact details to be able to issue you a reminder about your registration expiry and provide you with a renewal form.

In recent years, numerous RPEQs have not updated their contact details, meaning registration renewal forms did not reach them causing a last-minute scramble to renew. We remind all RPEQs that it is your responsibility to keep your details current so we can contact you. We will try to reach you if we do not receive your registration renewal form, but if we do not have your current contact details this will be difficult. You must, at all times, keep your business address (not a PO Box), telephone number, facsimile number, and email address current. If you would like your renewal form to be issued to a different address (a postal or home address, for example) you should provide that address also.

It is a requirement to notify the Board of any change to your contact information within 21 days and failure to do so is an offence against the Act, unless you have a reasonable excuse.

To notify us of any change in your contact details email admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au.

For registration enquiries contact (07) 3198 0000 (within Australia), or +61 7 3198 0000 (overseas callers).

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