



NEWSLETTER

# ISSUE 33

## MARCH 2017

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## A WORD FROM THE REGISTRAR

The end of March signals the beginning of the registration renewal period; to assist RPEQs, BPEQ has prepared a revised set of [renewal guidelines](#). BPEQ will soon distribute personal renewal information to RPEQs and begin processing registration renewal applications from 1 April. BPEQ requires all renewal applications by 31 May.

Several engineers have responded to BPEQ's call for RPEQ Champions. John Bretz and Julianne Whiteside are our newest RPEQ Champions. John and Julianne are both highly experienced, qualified and committed engineers who I am sure will provide invaluable advice to their peers.

BPEQ had the pleasure of joining with the Minister for Housing and Public Works to recognise RPEQs Rosario 'Ben' Russo, Dan Higgins and John Planner who have served the profession for more than 50 years. My congratulations and thanks to Ben, Dan and John for their achievements and what they have done for Queensland.

Communication is key when it comes to successfully completing a project. Unfortunately, communication

breakdowns between RPEQs and clients do occur and this can result in a complaint being made against the RPEQ. Avoiding complaints triggered by poor communication is featured as the legal discussion in this e-news issue.



RPEQs in the Gympie, Fraser Coast and Sunshine Coast regions will have the chance to discuss legal and registration matters with BPEQ staff that will be travelling to those areas next week (5-7 April) as part of the registration roadshow. Local RPEQs are invited to contact BPEQ to arrange a meeting or seminar for their workplace.

We trust you enjoy and find the e-news useful; 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



## INTRODUCING THE NEW RPEQ CHAMPIONS

### JOHN BRETZ



John is a Principal Development Engineer with Sunshine Coast Regional Council. John earned his degree in engineering from the Queensland University of Technology and later earned an MBA from the University of Queensland, making the Dean's Honours List.

During his 30-year career, John has worked in state government across three departments and in local government with four different councils. His experience is in building and construction, transport, water and development.

John is an active member of Engineers Australia and has sat as an interview panel member on many occasions. He is also a General Referee under the Sustainable Planning Act to the Building Dispute Resolution Committee.

Sunshine Coast based engineers, particularly those with council, are encouraged to speak with John about becoming registered. To get in touch with John, call (07) 3198 0004.

### JULIANNE WHITESIDE

Julianne is the Principal Engineer Program Delivery and Operations in the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Far North District. Her formal qualifications include an Associate Diploma in Engineering (Civil), Bachelor of Technology (Civil) and a Masters of Engineering Science (Environmental Engineering).

She started with DTMR as a Drawing Office Aide, studied to become a Senior Designer and then continued her studies to become a Principal Engineer.

Julianne lists being the Superintendent on the construction of the Bloomfield River Bridge (\$13M) and Preconstruction Manager for the Bruce Highway upgrade (\$58M) amongst her significant career achievements.

Julianne is a member of Engineers Australia and Professionals Australia. Julianne has provided mentorship for many graduate engineers throughout her career.

DTMR engineers in the Far North District are encouraged to contact Julianne to discuss registration. To get in touch with Julianne, contact (07) 3198 0004.

To find out more about becoming a RPEQ Champion contact BPEQ at [admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au](mailto:admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au) or call (07) 3198 0000.

## RPEQS RECOGNISED FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Rosario 'Ben' Russo, Dan Higgins and John Planner were this month recognised for their longstanding service to Queensland as RPEQs.

Ben and Dan joined the Housing and Public Works Minister Hon. Mick de Brenni, BPEQ Chair Dawson Wilkie, Board members and Registrar Kylie Mercer at a presentation at One William Street. The Minister presented Ben and Dan with sterling silver badges to mark their service and achievement and thanked the RPEQs for helping 'build Queensland'. Ben has primarily been involved in water infrastructure, including being part of the design teams for Wivenhoe Dam and Burdekin Dam. While Dan lists the Mount Isa railway, Moura coal line project and Roma Street development amongst his career achievements.

NSW based RPEQ John Planner could not attend the presentation, but was also acknowledged for the work he has done in Queensland, including research to minimise dust emissions from coal terminals and rail transport in Queensland.



*Dawson Wilkie, Kylie Mercer, Dan Higgins, Ben Russo and Mick de Brenni at the presentation.*

Ben, Dan and John have demonstrated the utmost professionalism, competency and commitment to practice at the highest standard throughout their respective careers. It is a testament to their professionalism, competency and passion for engineering that they are the only RPEQs to have reached 50 or more years of registration.



## AVOIDING COMPLAINTS TRIGGERED BY POOR COMMUNICATION

Project clients regularly make assumptions about the role of the RPEQ within a broad and integrated project. They often do not know what the RPEQ is supposed to do, or critically, what they are not responsible for and are not going to do. Consistent with the nature of assumptions, while the RPEQ's role may be limited to, for instance, design or inspection, the client may believe that the RPEQ has a supervisory role.

Of course, none of this presents any real problem until there is a problem. When, for whatever reason, a project goes wrong, the client's focus may shift from the RPEQ being a distant figure, to being the focus of complaint about the project as a whole.

In some cases, the RPEQ's conduct will legitimately be subject to scrutiny and assessment. For RPEQs, the best defence against this is diligent and responsible practice in the first instance.

As the regulator, BPEQ has a statutory function of receiving and processing complaints against RPEQs and notifications about other persons who are unlawfully carrying out professional engineering services or using the protected RPEQ title or being held out as such.

In assessing complaints against RPEQs, one of the first steps is to identify the scope of the RPEQ's responsibilities from the complainant, other relevant persons and the subject RPEQ.

In many cases, this process is routine and identifies that the complaint squarely relates to the issue for which the RPEQ was responsible. This falls into the legitimate category outlined above.

However, this process often reveals that there is a significant difference between what client's believe that the RPEQ was doing or responsible for doing and what the RPEQ is actually responsible for doing or has done.

While in some cases, this is a matter of poor scoping, in other cases it comes down to a misapprehension of the RPEQ's role and responsibilities within a project. At the most basic level, the RPEQ is actually doing 'X' but the client believes that they are also doing 'Y' and 'Z'. It takes little imagination to predict that when any problem about 'X', 'Y' or 'Z' arises, the RPEQ may be subject to complaint.

While it is not possible to guarantee clients understand a RPEQ's role, it is advisable for all parties to communicate the nature, scope and exclusions of a RPEQ's involvement and establish dispute resolution steps. Communication, particularly early communication, is the single best step that can be undertaken to prevent or

resolve disputes at the lowest level.

Ideally, communication would occur at the time of engagement. This is contemplated by paragraph 2.3 of the Code of Practice.

Time invested in communicating and contextualising scope from the outset may provide certainty for RPEQ's about their role, be a reference point for future communications and provide relevant information to clients about what the RPEQ is going to do and not going to do.

A simple example where communication may be beneficial is that if an engagement is for design only, that unless there are further engagements, the RPEQ will have no involvement in the construction. Another example is where a RPEQ inspects a project and (if satisfied) issues a Form 16. In this case, it may be beneficial to communicate such engagement does not involve supervision, which may be (wrongly) assumed by the client.

If a client wants a RPEQ to provide construction or supervision a broader scope of engagement will need to be discussed and agreed upon.

If pro-active communication is not practical, it may still be advantageous to communicate at the first opportunity if the client raises concerns or issues. The earlier communication occurs, the more likely an issue will be identified and resolved before escalation. However inconvenient this may appear, it will be much more time efficient than dealing with the same issue as part of a formal disciplinary complaint process through BPEQ, particularly if the complaint is wrongly targeted due to a client's assumption.

Conversely, if a client perceives that a RPEQ is refusing to communicate with them about a material issue, this may lead to escalation including a complaint to BPEQ, which may have been avoidable through communication.

The Code of Practice creates obligations on RPEQs to advise clients of their name and contact details and to communicate with fairness, honesty and based on adequate knowledge.



[Continued from page 3](#) – While these are the minimum requirements, there are sound reasons for RPEQs to extend their communication with clients to inform about their professional role. Not only is it professional conduct, it may prevent or de-escalate complaints. Additionally, it will almost certainly enhance your reputation and relationship with clients, many of whom will appreciate the effort in a competitive market.

Further information about BPEQ policies and processes is available on BPEQ's website or by contacting BPEQ directly at [legal@bpeq.qld.gov.au](mailto:legal@bpeq.qld.gov.au) or calling (07) 3198 0000.

While BPEQ staff will endeavour to provide assistance about processes and procedures, staff will not provide legal advice.

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## AUSTRALIA ADOPTS INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR BIM DATA SHARING

Standards Australia recently published AS ISO 16739:2017, Industry Foundation Classes (IFC) for data sharing in the construction and facility management industries. This is an identical adoption of the international standard ISO 16739.

AS ISO 16739 establishes a data schema and an exchange file format for Building Information Model (BIM) data. It is intended for use in architecture, engineering, construction and operation industries.

The adoption of this standard fits within the government's wider goal of improving productivity, quality and sustainability within the Australian built environment sector. In March 2016 the Australasian Procurement and Construction Council (APCC) recommended the "national adoption of ISO and related BIM standards across the Commonwealth, and all States and Territories" as part of the government report *Smart ICT - Report on the inquiry into the role of smart ICT in the design and planning of infrastructure*.

The schema describes entities commonly found in AECO industries – building elements, construction systems, spaces, locations, projects, actors, processes, etc. – and the relationships between them.



AS ISO 16739 acts as an intermediary between different proprietary schemas. It assists software developers to write programs that can export IFC format files and allow IFC files to be imported from other applications.

The direct adoption of this international standard was supported by BD-104, Building Information Modelling. BD-104 is the Standards Australia's mirror committee of ISO TC 59/SC 13, *Organization of information about construction works*.

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## 6TH WOMEN IN ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2017

BPEQ is pleased to sponsor and take part in the [6th Women in Engineering Leadership Summit](#).

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. Inspirational and successful women, with backgrounds in engineering, will share their stories of the barriers overcome in their careers and will offer critical advice to attain success for current and emerging leaders.

Several prominent speakers have been booked to speak at the summit, including BPEQ Deputy Chair and Aurecon Built Environment Leader Evelyn Storey.

**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:

Phillip Keane	Jeremy Rosen	Xu Liu	Xinling Shu
David Chamberlain	Mark Miles	Jason Baptist	Lloyd Townley
Sagar Ghediya	Rhys Tucker	Muhammad Farooq	Ghulam Khan
Samer El Haddad	Marc Perumal	Gwennie Lam	Andrea House
Michael Gerguis	Raymond McFerran	Michael Rideout	Ryan McKenzie
Matthew Palmer	Zachary Piper	Matthew Sharland	Vanniasingam
Brett Ross	Mahaveer Pareek	Jianzeng Geng	Packiakumar
Richard Anderson	Bradley Crisp	Samuel Nicoll	Ty Grantham
Scott Marsh	George Khalil	Tahir Rafique	Christopher Saunders
Michael Kelly	Michael Hanna	Mark Harrison	Richard Feigin
Rocky Guruprasad	Hai Yuen Wong	Alan Wilson	Sudarshan Dahal
Lucky Thomas	Caleb Simmich	Mario Dela Cuadra	Gareth Philips
Sukjeet Rushi	Justin Devantier	Owen Posselt	Jonathon Sieburn
Michael Della	Samuel Heska	David Osborne	Marnie Coates
Stephen Franken	Simon Hurst	Abhishek Mishra	Lucio Zentilin
Lyon Amahit	Devinder Pal	Jeremy Kirjan	Mark Massa
Goparanjan Mohapatra	Iman Mohannadnejad	John Bennett	Anna Brink
Maria Hill	Denzil Ross	Joseph Saunders	Lin Yang
Liam Whittaker	Sarah Shelton	Dorival Pedroso	Zachariah Couper
Kate Williams	Peter Tait	Thomas Gardiner	Adriano Marin
Ross Percival	James Galvin	John Dimock	Robin Vanstone
Saeed Ghaderi Sohi	Michael Pattison	Patrick Taylor	Adam O'Shea
Andrew Campbell	Bruce Rummins	Scott Dicker	
Andrew Bhaskar	Robert Harcourt	Gabor Nemeth	
Gareth Clarke	Stephen King	Robert Swindell	

## 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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