



NEWSLETTER

# ISSUE 30

## OCTOBER 2016

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## A WORD FROM THE REGISTRAR

The regional meet and greets hosted by BPEQ are always popular with local RPEQs; and so it proved at the function for Gold Coast RPEQs held earlier this month.



Around 30 RPEQs joined Board members at a social gathering to talk about issues in engineering and the operation and performance of BPEQ.

BPEQ's [Annual Report](#) for 2015/16 was tabled earlier this month and highlights how the organisation performed in the preceding 12 months. The annual report shows BPEQ has been successful in meeting or actioning the majority of its strategic and performance objectives. Achievements for BPEQ during 2015/16 include reaching 11,992 RPEQs, developing and piloting a CPD seminar for RPEQs, collaborating with Queensland universities to promote registration, increasing the number of female RPEQs by 30 percent, launching a public awareness campaign to promote RPEQs and use of the RPEQ register and developing and launching a new modern website. BPEQ recognises the challenges and opportunities for the future and has already set in place new objectives and plans.

A pressing issue for BPEQ is the Code of Practice review. Several RPEQs and other interested parties made submissions to the review and the Board will consider proposed amendments during its November meeting.

BPEQ is also in the process of making a submission to the Victorian Government's consultation paper for a statutory registration scheme for Victorian engineers. BPEQ has long supported registration for engineers in other jurisdictions and looks forward to working with Victoria to ensure the registration systems operate in coordination.

A reminder that BPEQ is taking part in several upcoming industry events, starting with the IFE National Conference in late October, then the IPWEAQ Conference and the Australian Engineering/Australian Structural Engineering Conference in November. If you are a delegate at any of these conferences, please come and say hello.

Delegates at these conferences can claim attendance as continuing professional development (CPD). In order to continue to be eligible for registration, RPEQs must undertake 150 hours of CPD over three years. BPEQ is doing its part to assist RPEQs, non-practising RPEQs and former RPEQs meet their CPD obligations by creating the [Back in the Workforce bursary](#), which you can read more about in this edition of the e-news.



Last month's e-news referred to RPEQs winning awards at the Australian Engineering Excellence Awards. An editorial error was made and the article should have read the Australian Engineering Excellence Awards – Queensland.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the e-news and if BPEQ can be of assistance in any way, email [admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au](mailto: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:

Michael Menkens	Sam Ehsani	Nandana Millawitiya	Andrew Martin
Luke Batson	Steven Sorua	Shane Hosking	Adrianus Prawira
Prodromos Thomaidis	Jack Huang	Richard Gledhill	Clinton Vanderkruk
Ravendra Nand	Helen Stewart	Mark Lenke	Carla Quiroga
Scott Burchmore	Mohsen Moeini	Terry Najjarine	Robert McCarthy
Novri Prasetyo	Garth Powell	Anthony Lusty	Natasha Joynson
Brendyn Rheinberger	Sze Fong	Emily Hughes	Han Lu
Anthony Fichera	Tafaranashe Mudavose	Syed Bukhari	Adam Lucas
Conor Casey	Glenn Browning	Rhett Watters	Stephen Brown
Justin Ford	Mandar Panvelkar	Brett Humphrey	Sean Housey
Rodney Hancock	Sanjeewa Manamperi	Justin Lim	Damien Lech
Samuel Hale	Maziar Mahzari	Michael Bailey	

## AREAS OF ENGINEERING VS AREAS OF COMPETENCE

One of the frequent topics of inquiry with BPEQ concerns 'areas of engineering' and 'areas of competence'.

While the two concepts are separate, they are both essential requirements for the lawful carrying out of professional engineering services.

### AREAS OF ENGINEERING

'Areas of engineering' are established under an 'assessment scheme' or prescribed under a regulation.

In total, there are currently 25 areas of engineering. Of these, 24 are established under an assessment scheme and one (aeronautical engineering) is prescribed under regulation. A full list of areas of engineering and the responsible assessment entities is available on the BPEQ [website](#).

Under the Professional Engineers Act 2002 ('the PE Act'), it is an offence for a practising professional engineer to carry out professional engineering services in an area of engineering for which they are not registered. The seriousness of the offence is reflected by the significant maximum penalty of 1000 penalty units (or \$121 900 as at 1 July 2016).

This means that in order to carry out professional engineering services in a particular area of engineering,

you must be a practising professional engineer who is registered in that particular area of engineering.

The details of each practising professional engineer's area/s of engineering can be readily identified as they are listed on the register on the BPEQ [website](#).

*NB: There is a policy which relates to civil engineers who were registered prior to 1 July 2008 who carry out structural engineering services. Further details are available in Practice Note 4.2(2A) on BPEQ's [website](#).*

### AREAS OF COMPETENCE

In addition to being registered in a particular area of engineering, a practising professional engineer must ensure that he or she undertakes professional engineering services only within their area of competence.

The requirement for specific competence is a disciplinary requirement.

The 'Code of Practice for Registered Professional Engineers' (the Code) requires that practising professional engineers work within their area of competence and not misrepresent their competence.



Section 3.5 of the Code of Practice states:

*A registered professional engineer must:*

- (a) undertake professional engineering services only within their area of competence;*
- (b) not misrepresent their competence;*
- (c) not knowingly permit those whose work they are responsible for to breach paragraph (a) or paragraph (b).*
- (d) recognise where other professional advice is required and either seek it or recommend to an employer and/or client to seek such expert advice in appropriate areas.*

Providing professional engineering services outside area of competence may constitute 'unsatisfactory professional conduct' and, among other things, lead to formal disciplinary action under the PE Act.

*The PE Act defines unsatisfactory professional conduct as including:*

- (a) conduct that is of a lesser standard than that which might reasonably be expected of the registered professional engineer by the public or the engineer's professional peers;*
- (b) conduct that demonstrates incompetence, or a lack of adequate knowledge, skill, judgement or care, in the practice of engineering;*
- (c) misconduct in a professional respect;*
- (d) fraudulent or dishonest behaviour in the practice of engineering;*
- (e) other improper or unethical conduct.*

It is incumbent on practicing professional engineers to satisfy themselves, in the context of their legislative and professional obligations, that they are competent in a particular area. This will often involve an element of professional judgement by the practitioner.

The Code provides useful guidance to practitioners in exercising this judgement. Section 3.5 provides that examples of competence in an area of practice include –

- formal training in that area;
- any previous experience or exposure in the type of work that has been supervised by a registered professional engineer;
- consultation with or reference to a person competent in the area to supervise the task.
- activities considered to meet competence and ongoing continuing professional development (CPD) requirements of the assessment entities.

It is objective of the PE Act and BPEQ that professional engineering services are carried out by practicing professional engineers in a professional and competent way. Further information can be obtained from the BPEQ [website](#).



## BACK IN THE WORKFORCE BURSARY

The [Back in the Workforce bursary](#) was launched by BPEQ in July to assist RPEQs meet their CPD obligations.

The bursary is open to female RPEQs, non-practising RPEQs and former RPEQs based in Queensland.

Bursary applicants can claim up to \$500 to cover the costs of continuing professional development. Applicants should complete the application form and submit it to BPEQ along with their CV and a cover letter up to two pages, detailing proposed course and cost, and how the proposed course will assist them attain the necessary continuing professional development points.

Applicants who apply for the bursary before 31 October can also obtain a 20 per cent discount on registration to the IPWEAQ State Conference in Brisbane (8-10 November). Conference attendees can claim 16 hours of CPD at the IPWEAQ State Conference.

For more information contact BPEQ at [admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au](mailto:admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au) or call (07) 3198 0000.

## LGAQ CONFERENCE 2016



*The BPEQ stall at the LGAQ Conference.*

BPEQ was a first time exhibitor at this year's LGAQ Conference on the Gold Coast.

Around 200 delegates from all 77 of Queensland's local government authorities joined representatives of state government, government agencies and businesses at the three-day conference.

BPEQ staff held discussions with several mayors, councillors and chief executive officers from councils as far afield as Boulia, Cook and Bulloo. Large and medium engineering firms exhibiting at the conference were also interested in learning about the PE Act and getting unregistered engineers registered.

Many of the councillors who spoke with BPEQ stated the significant opportunities that exist for engineers in local government, particularly in rural and regional Queensland, through new infrastructure and development plans.

Queensland's Deputy Premier Jackie Trad used the conference to release the [draft South East Queensland Regional Plan](#). The 25-year strategy plans for housing, employment, roads and transport as the population of the South East grows to 5.3 million.



## NEW SERVICE MATCHES IDEAS WITH INVESTORS

Innovators in the engineering, construction and resources sectors across the state can meet a potential end user, investor or adviser in a new Queensland Government program that began earlier this month.

The Department of State Development's pilot Engineering, Construction and Resources Innovation Hub (ECRI Hub) program aims to identify commercial opportunities in these sectors by translating ideas into products and services.

Under the first stage of the pilot program, up to eight participants will be selected to work with leading engineering and professional services company GHD to increase their market intelligence and understanding of the commercial value of their product.

Up to three participants will advance to a second, more intensive stage of the program focused on developing industry partnerships and longer-term outcomes.

The Queensland Government will cover two-thirds of the \$9000 Stage One and two-thirds of the \$18,000 Stage Two costs, and participants will be expected to make a financial commitment.

GHD will work with participants to develop an overview of the participant's innovation opportunities before the product or service is ready for market in mid-2017.

Expressions of Interest for the program close on 14 November. For more information and to apply visit [dsd.qld.gov.au/ecrihub](http://dsd.qld.gov.au/ecrihub).

## 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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