



9 June 2021

## **ANDREW SECCOMBE APPOINTED CHAIR OF QUEENSLAND ENGINEERING AUTHORITY**

Registered geotechnical engineer, Andrew Seccombe, has been appointed chair of the Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland (**BPEQ**).

Mr Seccombe succeeds long-standing chair, Dawson Wilkie, in both the leadership role as well as BPEQ regional representative.

Mr Seccombe thanked his predecessor and committed himself to working in the best interest of engineers and the Queensland public.

"It is a privilege to be appointed BPEQ chair and I am looking forward to tackling the challenges that lay ahead," said Mr Seccombe.

"As an organisation we must not forget our purpose: to protect the public and set the standard of engineering.

"What drew me to nominate for appointment to BPEQ was a desire to ensure that the community is safe and benefits from the decisions of engineers and to help raise the profile and standards of engineers within our communities.

"How BPEQ can achieve that is by taking action where engineering services are not carried out to a satisfactory standard and pressing engineers to get registered as soon as they are eligible.

"Like a doctor, lawyer, teacher or nurse, registration for engineers should just be a normal step in one's career path.

"I am particularly interested in driving the number of registered engineers in the mining and resources sector.

"As a registered engineer who has worked in the sector and in remote and regional parts of Queensland for over 10 years, I believe I can bring a relevant perspective to BPEQ's mining and resources engagement strategies."

In addition to the mining and resources sector, Mr Seccombe pointed to automatic mutual recognition (**AMR**) as another priority matter for BPEQ.

"The federal government is pushing ahead with a scheme for automatic mutual recognition allowing professionals to work across state and territory boundaries.

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“A scheme like this can only work where there are agreed professional standards between all states and territories and currently Queensland is the only state or territory with legislated standards for engineers.

“I am sure most Queenslanders and registered engineers would agree that engineering, because of its complexity and potential impacts on public health and safety, is one profession that should have strict entry and practise standards, so BPEQ will be arguing for engineers working in or for Queensland to be exempt from the AMR scheme.”

### ENDS

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### About the Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland

The Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland (**BPEQ**) is an independent statutory body. BPEQ has administered the *Professional Engineers Act (PE Act)* and managed the Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland (**RPEQ**) system since 1930.

The PE Act requires any person carrying out a professional engineering service to be registered as a RPEQ.

BPEQ is charged with investigating and prosecuting unsatisfactory professional conduct by RPEQs and breaches of the PE Act (e.g. carrying out a professional engineering service when unregistered).

BPEQ registers over 17,000 RPEQs in Queensland, interstate and overseas.

Website: [www.bpeq.qld.gov.au](http://www.bpeq.qld.gov.au)

### About Andrew Seccombe

A RPEQ since 2016, registered in the area of Geotechnical (Mining), Andrew Seccombe has a demonstrated background in the mining and resources sector which spans over 10 years.

From 2011 to 2014, Andrew was employed as a geotechnical engineer by Rio Tinto at its Kestrel Mine. In 2015, he joined Black Rock Mining, a medium-sized consultancy company as technical manager, a position he still holds today.

Andrew is actively involved and passionate about mining and is currently working with other groups such as the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (**AusIMM**) and the Bowen Basin Underground Geotechnical Society (**BBUGS**) to help raise awareness of the importance of professional engineering within the mining industry. He is elected chairperson of the BBUGS and a committee member of the AusIMM Southern Queensland Branch.