



NEWSLETTER

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A WORD FROM THE REGISTRAR

BPEQ has made a concerted effort in the past 18 months to improve awareness and value in registration. Pleasingly, that effort appears to be having the desired effect with a spike in registration applications in recent months and several eligible engineers stating they now understood registration and planned to apply to become a RPEQ in the near future.

One of the priority areas for BPEQ has been engaging with engineering students. This month, I was joined by BPEQ's Deputy Chair Evelyn Storey at a QUT Girls in Engineering Making Statements event, spoke at UQ's We Are Industry Ready night and BPEQ staff attended the UQ Engineering Undergraduate Society careers fair.

BPEQ staff also held a registration seminar with Ipswich City Council engineers and travelled to Toowoomba for a professional development event and a registration seminar. Later in the month BPEQ staff will be travelling to Charleville, Cunnamulla and Roma, you can read more about this upcoming registration roadshow in this edition of the e-news.



The RPEQ Code of Practice is a regular focus of discussion during these registration seminars. Incidentally, the Code of Practice is being reviewed and BPEQ is encouraging all RPEQs to make a submission by visiting the [Get Involved](#) portal.

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 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:

Andrew Hakin	Adam Robinson	Alan Kerr	Samuel Telford
Craig Sleeman	Joshua Hockey	Dean Walker	James Wreford
Gareth Bolton	Nicholas De Boer	Craig Gordon	Karthik Palanisamy
Rayk Platzek	Christie Cole	Andrew Labbett	Adam Anderson
Praveen Atmuri	Igor Ristovski	Wei Ming Ong	Bian Shephard
Cameron Hateley	Gerald Mataka	Huijin Ma	Annielyn Sanchez
Prakash Aryal	Alexandra Robertson	Edward Tuplin	Roderick Broune
Karl Fischer	Lize-Mari Pienaar	Michael Humphry	Alexander Cantali
Paul-Bernhard Bosch	Greg Kennedy	Marina Delac	Kjeld Korsholm Madsen
Chiraag Patel	Christie Player	Elaine Pang	Hesham Abdelfattah
Alistair Watson	Martin Grim	Mark Hogan	Gijsbert De Wildt
David Stephens	Zhou Zhao	Grant Wellwood	Prakash Iyer
Quinn Lawson	Stuart Ramsay	Boris Cvjeticanin	
Benny Man	Dhruv Maheshwari	Dhayanthi Pfeifer	
Daniel Rodger	Sandra Pouladi	Ross McDougall	

SPOTLIGHT ON DIRECT SUPERVISION

Recent BPEQ registration roadshows have again highlighted issues surrounding ‘direct supervision’ in the context of the PE Act.

The PE Act mandates that all professional engineering services are carried out by a RPEQ or under the direct supervision of a RPEQ who is responsible for the services.

The purpose of this offence provision is to protect the public by ensuring that all professional engineering services are carried out or directly supervised by a RPEQ in a professional and competent way.

The significance of this requirement is reflected by the fact that the maximum penalty for this offence provision is 1000 penalty units, the current value of which is \$121,900.

It is important for all engineers to understand that direct supervision places substantial obligations on both the supervising RPEQ and the unregistered engineer being supervised.

It is timely to reiterate some key principles in relation to direct supervision.

DIRECT SUPERVISION

Direct supervision requires supervision of each individual professional engineering service. A general workplace or reporting relationship will not satisfy

the direct supervision requirements. An assessment of direct supervision will be transaction-based, not relationship-based.

Strict compliance is required with each professional engineering service undertaken.

The following five elements must exist for there to have been direct supervision by a RPEQ:

1. the supervision must be **direct**;
2. **the supervising RPEQ** must **direct** the person in the carrying out of the service;
3. **the supervising RPEQ** must **oversee** the carrying out of the service by the person;
4. **the supervising RPEQ** must **evaluate** the carrying out of the service by the person; and
5. **the supervising RPEQ** must take **full professional responsibility** for the service.

Direct supervision can be undertaken remotely, including interstate, provided that the above elements exist. Clear records will be required, to show what direct contact there was between the supervising RPEQ and the unregistered person and what direction, oversight, and evaluation was provided.



WHAT IS NOT DIRECT SUPERVISION

The following practices do not constitute direct supervision:

1. Certifying, reviewing, or endorsing completed design work or engineering reports,
2. Supervision by exception where there is an issue triggered consultation.
3. Relying on the mere existence of RPEQs in the organisation without them being involved in each professional engineering services.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUPERVISING RPEQ

A supervising RPEQ must:

1. be registered in the relevant area of engineering;
2. be competent in and have sufficient knowledge of the type of professional engineering services being supervised;
3. have sufficient control over the outputs of the professional engineering services to reasonably form the view that the standard of the services is that to be expected of a RPEQ; and
4. take full professional responsibility for the professional engineering service.

The adequacy of direct supervision by a RPEQ or the professional engineering services for which the RPEQ takes full responsibility may be relevant in a professional discipline context.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUPERVISEE

An engineer who is being directly supervised:

1. has the **legal onus to prove that they were directly supervised by a RPEQ who is responsible for the services** in the performance of the professional engineering services; and
2. should, in order to discharge this onus, have detailed records which demonstrate how the five elements of direct supervision existed. Examples of records include, but are not limited to, letters, emails, file notes of verbal conversations, advices, and draft designs.

Carrying out professional engineering services other than under the direct supervision of a RPEQ who is responsible for the services can lead to prosecution in the Magistrates Court of Queensland. The absence of detailed records evidencing the direct supervision may mean that a supervisee may not be able to discharge their onus to prove that they were directly supervised.

BENEFITS OF ACHIEVING REGISTRATION AS A RPEQ

The benefits of registration go beyond being able to perform professional engineering services without direct supervision or to directly supervise someone else.

Achieving RPEQ registration is an important career milestone for Queensland professional engineers and professional engineers who work for Queensland projects.

BPEQ encourages eligible professional engineers to take the next step and become registered and for RPEQs to encourage eligible supervisees to work towards registration as a career milestone.

Maximising registration and ensuring all engineers who provide an engineering service in Queensland are registered is a strategic objective for BPEQ.

Further information is contained in BPEQ Practice Note 4.5(1) Direct Supervision, available on the BPEQ website.

If you have any questions about registration or direct supervision, please contact BPEQ on at admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au or call (07) 3198 0000.



TRANSITIONING FROM TECHNICAL SPECIALIST TO PEOPLE MANAGER



BPEQ Registrar Kylie Mercer addresses the audience at *Transitioning from technical specialist to people manager*.

The second instalment of *Transitioning from technical specialist to people manager* was held earlier this month. A crowd of more than 50 RPEQs and unregistered engineers joined the seminar led by Dr Terry Fitzsimmons.

Dr Fitzsimmons spoke about the traits and skills of successful managers and leaders, what is required to advance to a management position and touched on gender issues in engineering; a current issue for managers in many professions.

BPEQ Registrar Kylie Mercer reinforced the importance of RPEQs undertaking a broad array of continuing professional development, incorporating technical learning and soft skills.

Transitioning from technical specialist to people manager was designed as a pilot. RPEQs and non-RPEQs have embraced both seminars enthusiastically and BPEQ does plan to make new CPD courses available in future.

If you have a suggestion for a future CPD course topic, get in touch with BPEQ at admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au or call (07) 3198 0000.



SOUTH WEST REGISTRATION ROADSHOW

BPEQ registration roadshows continued this month with trips to Ipswich and Toowoomba.

As one of Queensland's fastest growing cities the demands on public infrastructure for Ipswich are significant. BPEQ took the time to speak to Ipswich City Council engineers and infrastructure services staff about the PE Act and registration.

BPEQ staff also addressed a professional development breakfast in Toowoomba organised by former Board member Mike Brady. BPEQ representatives used the opportunity to talk about the organisation's future direction and plans. Following the breakfast, engineers from Toowoomba Regional Council, Goondiwindi Regional Council, Southern Downs Regional Council and Western Downs Regional Council joined BPEQ for a registration seminar.

Later this month, BPEQ representatives are travelling to Charleville, Cunnamulla and Roma for registration seminars and meetings with local councils, engineering firms and resource companies.



BPEQ's Senior Legal Officer David Brothie and former Board member Mike Brady speaking at Toowoomba Regional Council's professional development breakfast.

Registration roadshow - South West

Dates: 29 - 31 August 2016

Locations: Charleville, Cunnamulla, Roma

For more information on the South West registration roadshow contact BPEQ 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](#).

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