



NEWSLETTER

# ISSUE 25

## MAY 2016

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## A WORD FROM THE REGISTRAR

In my short time with BPEQ, I have quickly come to understand the importance of registration. Engineering is a very diverse and interesting profession and I am thoroughly enjoying my time acting as Registrar while Kylie is on leave.

The current priority for BPEQ is processing the several thousand registration renewals for 2016-2017. At the time of writing, 6,396 engineers have renewed their registration. RPEQs have until 31 May to submit their renewal forms and pay their registration fees.

During the renewal period, BPEQ fields many enquiries about registration. To answer some of these queries, this edition of the e-news will feature a legal Q&A. BPEQ encourages engineers to engage, ask questions and suggest topics for discussion.

A sure way to have your say about BPEQ and registration is the RPEQ survey. Some RPEQs may have participated in the survey last year to gauge their feedback about the organisation and its services, the registration system and legislative obligations on engineers. I encourage all RPEQs to participate.

In this edition of the e-news, you will also read about the 2016 Federal Budget, the regional Board meeting in Townsville and learn about an upcoming awareness campaign to encourage the public to use the RPEQ register and only ever engage a RPEQ.

Please enjoy the May e-news and if there is any matter you want to raise or feedback you want to provide, contact BPEQ at [admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au](mailto:admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au) or call 07 3198 0000.

**Dylan Walker**  
Acting Registrar



## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST RPEQS

BPEQ extends a warm welcome to the following engineers who became registered in the last month:

Lyel Fontaine	Adam Marr	Joseph Williams	Kenneth Sumpter
Nathan Onn	Peter Thomas	Stuart Hilton	Wade Arthur
William Messer	Angela Fry	Nofoaluma Worrall	Adam Sommerfield
Cornel Radu	Peter McKenzie Hockings	Benjamin Bell	Stefan Mozar
Vincent Chan	Trent Watson	Brock Tomkins	Timothy McKey
Thuvarakan Maheswaran	Mark Bennett	Matthew Murray	Paul Bradbury
Deepak Ramasubramanian	Dean Cooper	John Wilkins	Joshua Hurley
Himanshu Gupta	James Bagnall	Ali Gheydari	Richard Tytler
Alia Darmansjah	Robert Pine	Johannes Rust	Chad Hentschke
Linda Ziebell	Lincoln Roberts	Alireza Bahadori	Allan Tree
Ata Ataabady	Kevan Brian	Peter Ley	Atreyu De Lacy
Justin Friedrichs	Darren Chilcott	Matthew Carthew	Jesse Millar
John Spriensma	Ruwan Thotawatta	Patrick Doody	Tanya Kooymans
Nihal Vitharana	Joseph Baim	Sahil Chordia	Paul Vaughan
Stephen Mufute	John Armstrong	Anthony Di Marzo	Andrew Pau
Chieh Tsao	Paul Grace	Nicholas Hill	Anthony McCullough
Hatem Guirguis	Arthikaran Venkatesan	Heather Webster	Nicholas Thomas-Kinsella
Ratnang Rushi	Andrew O'Neill	Jeremy Tan	

Congratulations and best wishes to the following RPEQs on their retirement:

Lionel Ellis	Greg Symes	Paul Fraser	Campbell Leitch
Vimalan Balachandran	Terry Hill	Paul Rushton	Andrew Munk
Philip Gobetz	Mathias Kuhn	Dennis Wogan	Ian Mclean
Campell Davidson	Ian Little	Bruce White	Boon Kee Tan
Peter James	Peter Nella	Eric Holliday	Malcolm Dorricott

## Q&A WITH BPEQ

BPEQ receives questions about the *Professional Engineers Act 2002* (PE Act) and the RPEQ system on a daily basis. In this edition of the e-news, BPEQ answers some of the most common questions from engineers and the public.

### QUESTION 1

**Q: Does x service require RPEQ certification to comply with the PE Act?**

A: It depends.

The PE Act does not provide for or require “RPEQ certification”, “sign-off”, or “approval”. The requirement of the PE Act is simply that professional engineering services are carried out by a RPEQ.

Whether x service requires “RPEQ certification” therefore depends on what your client/employer/local government authority/assessing agency/etc. requires.

For more information about certification and sign-off, please see the article ‘Certification and signing



BPEQ staff are available to meet and present to organisations about the PE Act and RPEQ system.



off, what it means to the Board' which appeared in BPEQ e-news Issue 9 (September 2014) available for download from [www.bpeq.qld.gov.au](http://www.bpeq.qld.gov.au).

### QUESTION 2

**Q: I am registered with the Board in the a area of engineering. Can I provide engineering services in the b area of engineering?**

A: No.

It is illegal for you to do so. Section 115(3) of the PE Act is clear that a person who is a RPEQ must not carry out professional engineering services in an area of engineering other than an area of engineering for which the engineer is registered with the Board.

(You may of course do so under the direct supervision of a responsible RPEQ who is registered in the b area of engineering.)

To download a copy of the PE Act, please visit [www.legislation.qld.gov.au](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au).

### QUESTION 3

**Q: Can I be registered in more than one area of engineering? How does that affect my CPD obligations?**

A: Yes.

You can be registered in as many areas of engineering as you like. For each area, you will need to undertake assessment of your qualifications and competencies through the appropriate assessment entity. Your total CPD obligations remain at 150 hours per three-year period regardless of the number of areas you are registered in, but you must ensure that you include a balance of CPD to maintain your competency in all areas in which you are registered.

For more information about registration, please visit the Board's website at [www.bpeq.qld.gov.au](http://www.bpeq.qld.gov.au).

### QUESTION 4

**Q: I was registered in the Civil area of engineering prior to 1 July 2008 but my qualifications and competencies are in structural engineering. There is now a Structural area of engineering but there wasn't when I was registered. Do I have to transfer into the new Structural area of engineering? Can I still carry out professional engineering services in the Structural area of engineering even though I am not registered in the area? How do I explain to my clients that although I am registered in the Civil area I am lawfully able to provide structural engineering services?**

A: If you are a structural engineer who was registered with the Board in the Civil area of

engineering prior to 1 July 2008, you were registered in the Civil area because the Structural area did not exist at the time. It is perfectly legal for you to continue to be registered in the Civil area of engineering. You do not have to transfer to the Structural area of engineering if you do not wish to do so. You only need to ensure that your CPD is in structural engineering, not civil engineering, and you also need to ensure that you do not carry out civil engineering services unless you were assessed as qualified and competent for registration in the Civil area.

If a client questions you about your registration, you can refer them to Board Practice Note 4.2(2A) (available for download at [www.bpeq.qld.gov.au](http://www.bpeq.qld.gov.au)) and invite them to discuss the matter with the Board's staff.

### QUESTION 5

**Q: Is z a professional engineering service?**

A: It depends.

Something is a professional engineering service if it satisfies the definition of a professional engineering service, which is as follows:

*professional engineering service means an engineering service that requires, or is based on, the application of engineering principles and data to a design, or to a construction, production, operation or maintenance activity, relating to engineering, and does not include an engineering service that is provided only in accordance with a prescriptive standard.*

The Board cannot advise you about whether something is or is not a professional engineering service. Doing so requires the expert opinion of a RPEQ registered in the appropriate area of engineering.

For more information about the definition of a professional engineering service please see Board Practice Notes 4.3.1A and 4.4, available for download at [www.bpeq.qld.gov.au](http://www.bpeq.qld.gov.au).

Still not clear about a definition in the Act or have a question about another topic? Get in touch with BPEQ at [admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au](mailto:admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au).

*NB: The term RPEQ is taken to mean an engineer who is currently registered as practising professional engineer, who carries out, or is responsible for, professional engineering services. Engineers with non-practising registration cannot carry out, or be responsible for, professional engineering services.*



## INTRODUCING THE NER, A NEW PATHWAY TO REGISTRATION

The Minister for Housing and Public Works has approved Engineers Australia's National Engineering Register (NER) as a registration assessment scheme.

BPEQ and Engineers Australia have worked together to ensure that assessment to be on the NER is consistent with RPEQ assessment, and guarantees the profession and public that engineers applying for the NER and RPEQ meet the highest standards of professionalism.

NER applicants must undertake a competency assessment through Engineers Australia. Engineers Australia has set the following eligibility criteria for the NER:

- a recognised qualification;
- relevant professional practice;
- currency of continuing professional development (CPD);
- the benefit of Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII);
- a commitment to ethical practice.

The NER will cater for eight (8) general and eleven (11) special areas of practice aligned to demonstrated professional competence and experience. Registration on the 11 special areas of practice will be restricted to chartered members of Engineers Australia and those who have successfully completed a Stage 2 competency assessment.

Once an applicant has been assessed as fit to be on the NER, they can request a letter of assessment from Engineers Australia to apply for RPEQ status. The NER is an optional voluntary commitment and is open to both members and non-members of Engineers Australia.

[Click here for more information about the NER.](#)

## BPEQ TO LAUNCH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

A new awareness campaign aimed at promoting use of BPEQ's online register and ensuring that the public only ever engage a RPEQ when requiring professional engineering services will soon commence.

Public information brochures and advertisements are set to appear in consumer information packs, relevant public offices and in consumer and professional publications.

Experienced RPEQs Mary Holmes and John Van De Hoef have lent their voices to the campaign by stating the importance and benefit of engaging a RPEQ.

Raising awareness of the RPEQ system will help protect the public and maintain public confidence in the profession, key objectives of the Professional Engineers Act 2002.

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON BPEQ

BPEQ is giving RPEQs the chance to have their say on the organisation and its services, the registration system and legislative obligations on engineers.

The RPEQ survey follows on from one conducted by BPEQ in 2015. More than 2,000 RPEQs took part in last year's survey, with the answers and feedback used to develop a plan to better engage RPEQs.

This new survey will be used to update and inform BPEQ about the issues important to engineers, the success of its current strategy and in the development of new initiatives. The survey is open until 30 June 2016.

[To have your say, click here.](#)

**BUILDING OR RENOVATING?**  
MAKE SURE YOU ONLY USE A RPEQ.

Building or renovating can be stressful at the best of times and having any doubt about the capability of your contractors is the last thing you want.

The Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland's (BPEQ) online register contains close to 12,000 registered professional engineers (RPEQ) in Queensland, interstate and overseas, can be used to check if an engineer is registered and to also search for an engineer by name, location, area of engineering and company.

By only using a RPEQ you will have peace of mind that they have the right qualifications, are competent and experienced, and accountable to BPEQ for their conduct.

So when hiring an engineer, remember:

- Queensland engineers are required by law to be registered (or directly supervised by a RPEQ)
- BPEQ's online register can be used to check an engineer is registered and search for a RPEQ that meets your needs
- By only using a RPEQ you can be confident about the standard of services and products you receive
- Be clear about the scope of services and products performed by the RPEQ
- If something goes wrong you can lodge a complaint with BPEQ about the engineering service or individual conduct, which may result in investigation and disciplinary action.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Visit: [www.bpeq.qld.gov.au](http://www.bpeq.qld.gov.au)  
Call: 07 3198 0000

THE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS OF QUEENSLAND  
PROTECTING THE PUBLIC AND SETTING THE STANDARD OF ENGINEERING



## TOWNSVILLE REGIONAL MEETING AND GEMS INDUSTRY NIGHT



BPEQ Chairman Dawson Wilkie addresses RPEQs at the Townsville meet and greet

### BPEQ travelled to Townsville for its regional meeting earlier this month.

The Board held a productive meeting before hosting a 'meet and greet' for local RPEQs. Around 50 RPEQs from the Townsville region took the opportunity to meet the Board and socialise with peers at the Ville Resort.

BPEQ staff met with engineers from local firms and presented to students and academics from James Cook University. IPWEAQ CEO Leigh Cunningham joined BPEQ staff at well-attended registration presentations with Townsville City Council, Charters Towers Regional Council and Burdekin Shire Council.

Back in Brisbane, RPEQ Sara Courtenay spoke at QUT's Girls in Engineering Making Statements (GEMS) semester one industry seminar. Sara spoke about her experience in the profession, the process of becoming a RPEQ and BPEQ initiatives supporting women in engineering. BPEQ is a GEMS sponsor and partner.

To arrange a meeting or registration presentation for your organisation or workplace contact [admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au](mailto:admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au).

[Click here for more information on GEMS.](#)



RPEQ Sara Courtenay speaking on the panel at QUT GEMS semester one industry seminar.



## BUDGET 2016 AT A GLANCE

This [Federal Budget](#) is more than just that according to Treasurer Scott Morrison. It aims to be an economic plan to help transition the economy from being quite reliant on mining and resources to one which is more diverse and innovative.

The Budget mantra, and a line you will hear oft repeated throughout the long election campaign, is jobs and growth; and, as with each and every government in recent memory, a commitment to reducing debt and deficit to eventually deliver a surplus.

At the heart of the Budget are changes to superannuation, small and medium business tax cuts, a crackdown on multi-national tax avoidance, defence investment and procurement, a jobs package for young people, growing international trade networks, welfare reforms and infrastructure investment.

A highlight in infrastructure investment is the \$50 billion infrastructure program up to 2019-20 (the total combined spend across all states and territories). Figured in this program are the \$5 billion Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility, \$2 billion National Water Infrastructure Loan Facility, \$6.7 billion for upgrades to the Bruce Highway, \$920 million of annual funding for national programs (such as Roads to Recovery and Bridges Renewal) and \$594 to the Australian Rail Track Corporation to acquire a land corridor for preconstruction activities on an inland freight railway to connect Brisbane and Melbourne.

New infrastructure spending measures announced in this Budget specific to Queensland include \$200 million to upgrade stage one of the Ipswich Motorway, \$24 million to upgrade the Cairns marine precinct and \$150 million for a freight rail corridor in Townsville, taking freight trains off commuter lines and away from suburban areas.



Budget 2016 provides ongoing and new funding for infrastructure.

Elsewhere, \$261 million will be spent on section two of the Perth Freight Link, \$490 million for the Forrestfield-Airport Link (Perth), \$115 million for works at the Western Sydney airport, \$1.5 billion for various infrastructure projects in Victoria and \$400 million for Tasmania's Midland Highway.

Engineering and infrastructure associations have welcomed the ongoing and additional infrastructure investment in the Budget, but are also calling on the Federal Government to ensure a more strategic and long term approach to infrastructure planning and investment.

## 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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