



NEWSLETTER

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A WORD FROM THE REGISTRAR

International Right to Information Day recognises and promotes the importance of openness and transparency in government. This year, the Board joined with Queensland government departments, agencies and other statutory bodies in support of Right to Information Day (28 September). Board staff attended a seminar on right to information, and as an organisation we are committed to proactively releasing useful information to RPEQs and the public.

I'm often asked about registration interstate or overseas. Japan, Poland, South Africa the United Kingdom and several states across the United States apply registration. This month we will take a look at the origins of one of the oldest engineering regulators in the US, the California Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists.

Following on from last month's case notes on managing projects with multiple contractors the Board has received some questions about RPEQs taking over partially completed projects. This topic will be the focus of our legal discussion in future editions of the e-news.

The October e-news features articles on Board presentations at the University of Queensland, the Sunshine Coast Regional Meeting and upcoming Board CPD events.

We always welcome feedback from RPEQs so if there is a particular topic you would like to see covered in the e-news contact us via 07 3198 0000 or via email at admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au.

Gary Stirling
Acting Registrar



CALIFORNIA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS AND GEOLOGISTS

Queensland's registration system traces its origins back to the late 1920's when the University of Queensland's Professor Roger Hawken lobbied the state government to introduce a system which would serve to uphold standards in the profession and protect the public.

Hawken's campaign for registration was set against the backdrop of the Great Depression. Attempting to stave off mass unemployment, governments around the world enacted large-scale civil works projects; jobs creation and expediency took priority ahead of safety and process. As a result, regulation of engineering and construction in many other countries has instead been a reaction to a major disaster rather than foresight.

In 1928 St Francis Dam near Las Angeles collapsed. More than 12 billion gallons was released from the dam killing between 450 and 600 people, destroying several thousand homes and causing millions of dollars of damage to public infrastructure. The subsequent

investigation concluded that the dam was anchored on weak and faulted rock formations. The Californian legislature determined that in the interest of public safety engineering and constructions projects and designs should be regulated. In 1929 the Californian Professional Engineers Act was passed and the California Board of Engineers was created.

Originally, only civil engineers were regulated. Today the Californian Board regulates all disciplines of engineering and all has oversight of land surveyors, geologists and geophysicists.

BOARD AT UQ

Acting Registrar Gary Stirling and Senior Legal Officer David Brothie visited the University of Queensland (UQ) in September to talk to engineering students about the RPEQ system. Almost 100 civil, chemical, electrical, mining and metallurgical and mechanical engineering students turned out and out to hear from Gary and David.

Board member Julie Mitchell was the keynote speaker at WE Are Industry Ready held in late September, also at UQ. WE Are Industry Ready helps prepare female engineering students for the workforce. Julie shared some of her insight and experiences as an engineer and delivered a presentation on the registration process.





SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL MEETING AND MEET AND GREET

More than 50 RPEQs from the Sunshine Coast region joined the Board at a meet and greet in early October.

Chairman Dawson Wilkie spoke at the event about the importance of registration and the professional benefits, while a new RPEQ, Lee Busby, was welcomed by his peers and received his Certificate of Registration.

Guests also included representatives from the University of the Sunshine Coast, branches of the Engineers Australia and the IPWEAQ and local engineering and construction firms.

The meet and greet events are held in conjunction with the Board's regional meetings.



New RPEQ, Lee Busby (centre) with members of the Board, (from left, Michael Duff, Dawson Wilkie (Chair) to right Mike Brady and Adam Stoker)



RPEQs and industry representatives at the meet and greet



TRANSITIONING FROM TECHNICAL SPECIALIST TO PEOPLE MANAGER

The Board is the process of planning a continuing professional development (CPD) seminar for RPEQs in early 2016. To continue to be eligible for registration RPEQs must undertake 150 hours of CPD over three years.

The planned half day seminar explores the challenges of moving beyond the professional/technical role into the role of manager and/or leader. Discussions will focus on various challenges such as:

- Moving beyond the technical boundary
- Balancing identities and changing relationships
- Changing expectations
- Power and influence: Beyond professional expertise.

Dr Terry Fitzsimmons from the University of Queensland will lead the seminar. Dr Fitzsimmons has consulted to several government and private organisations about leadership, strategy and management and has authored papers on these topics.

RPEQs will be charged a nominal \$10 fee to attend the seminar. Places will be capped so register your interest today by contacting admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au.

Date Friday, 26 February 2016
Time 8:00am – 12:00pm
Venue Brisbane (specific location TBC)

NEW FIRE SERVICES COMMISSIONER WELCOMED AS IFE QUEENSLAND PATRON

The Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE), one of the Board's assessment partners, welcomed recently appointed Fire and Emergency Services Commission, Katarina Carroll ASM to role by making her IFE Queensland Patron and presenting her affiliate membership of IFE.

The IFE is an international organisation founded in 1918 in the United Kingdom, with Queensland branch forming in 1936.



Commissioner Katarina Carroll receiving her affiliate certificate from Mick Conway, IFE Queensland President. Photo courtesy QFES.

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Don't forget the Board is on LinkedIn. To keep up to date with the latest news and events from the Board or to start a discussion on registration or engineering issues generally, click [FOLLOW](#).

T 07 3198 0000 E admin@bpeq.qld.gov.au

Level 15, 53 Albert Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 15213 CITY EAST QLD 4002

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