

## **Answers to questions taken on notice – the Institute of Public Works Engineers Australia NSW**

- 1. An item that has been addressed in a couple of submissions is the potential need for a requirement for professional indemnity insurance to be a part of the registration process. What would be the view of your various organisations on that? You are welcome to take it on notice if you would like to come back to us.**

Everyone sees it as necessary, but some think it might exacerbate the current PII issues. Others worry that rego will increase their individual liability. These concerns have been addressed in the FAQ page: [https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/NSW\\_engineer\\_registration/FAQ](https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/NSW_engineer_registration/FAQ)

(taken from link):

The focus all governments have on resolving the issues that have led to a crisis in the insurance market for the building sector is endorsed by Engineers Australia. If PI insurance is a condition of registration for engineers, it will ensure that those who are qualified to practice are also appropriately covered to practice. Engineers Australia's engagement with the insurance industry indicates that registration is one of many reforms that need to take place within the building sector before the Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) market is likely to change.

It is likely that a registered engineer in NSW will need to have the benefit of Professional Indemnity Insurance. That is expected to be via either a personal contract, or by virtue of their employer's insurance contract.

Exposure to potential liability for an engineer is unaffected by registration. What registration does mean is that, if someone is found to have provided engineering services to an unacceptable standard, they may be removed from the register, and therefore be unable to continue practicing as an engineer.

Also, a registered engineer is better able to resist pressures from clients to sign-off on sub-standard work because it would place their ability to practice at risk. Registration brings the engineering profession into line with other professions, namely the medical and legal professions.