PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS REGISTRATION BILL 2019

Name: Mr Manivannann Karuppaiah

Position: Senior software engineer

Date Received: 18 December 2019

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Dear Committee Members,

I write to lodge a submission to your Inquiry into the proposed Engineer Registration Bill. I support engineer registration in NSW. I have 9 years of experience in Quality Assurance. I am a Software Automation Test Engineer with hands-on experience with a range of test tools & platforms. I have worked in health care, retail and Transport projects. I firmly believe that Engineer Registration helps employer identify the Right Engineers. Sometimes company may not be able to do a background check, due to strict timelines and/or cost factors. This proposed Engineer Registration comes handy in such situations.

Registration of engineers in New South Wales is long overdue. Right now, anyone can call themselves an engineer in NSW which is not the case with any other related profession. Other professions have had licensing and registration regimes in place for many years to guarantee professional standards, protect the profession from unscrupulous and unqualified operators and protect the public. Examples of other professions where this is the case and where it has had an impact on public safety include: architects, builders, electricians, plumbers, doctors, nurses, and there are many others.

When you consider that engineers sit at the apex of the building and construction process – scoping, designing and overseeing the work of other trades and professionals, it underlines how absurd the current situation is. Introducing engineer registration is simply a matter of public-interest and closes a long-time regulatory gap which makes no sense and exposes the public to risks. I understand why high-profile residential construction failures at Mascot and Opal towers have been the focus in the media, but these crises are indicative of a wider problem that goes well beyond the vertical building sector.

Our major projects such as roads, bridges, rail, water & energy projects should not be exposed to unqualified people who can only call themselves engineers because there is no registration system. There is plenty of evidence that a lack of engineering input is affecting project outcomes. This includes the problem of public safety, but it also blocks innovation and leads to major projects running overtime and over budget. There are several recent examples of public and worker safety being compromised, but there is also a litany of issues with cost overruns and delays attributable to poor scoping of engineering dependent/critical projects.

People deserve to know if they are employing a properly qualified and experienced engineer whether they're building a bridge, an apartment or a new energy generator. And the public deserve to know that the infrastructure and services they use are safe. I urge you to support the Engineer Registration Bill to give the public confidence and workers in the profession the respect they deserve.

Yours sincerely,

Manivannann Karuppaiah

Senior Software Engineer

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