PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS REGISTRATION BILL 2019

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As a third generation engineer, I am deeply concerned about this situation. I believe the proposed bill doesn't go nearly far enough. I'd like to see the word "engineer" become a protected term, restricted to those who use ingenuity (the original basis of the word) in the course of their work and have at least a bachelor's degree in engineering.

Registration will not prevent people from doing a bad job; it can only restrict who attempts the job in the first place. The currently proposed bill is hopelessly incomplete in this regard, allowing unregistered people to practise under the nominal supervision of someone else, who is registered. This would allow an entire office of unregistered, possibly even unqualified "engineers" to have their work rubber-stamped by a single manager.

Protecting the term "engineer" would eliminate the widespread misuse of the word and subsequently improve the reputation of the profession, hopefully to the same level as it has in Germany. Very many construction companies currently feature the word "engineering" in their names and numerous technicians and mechanics call themselves engineers. The case of aircraft mechanics is particularly problematic, since these people frequently go on strike, causing enormous inconvenience to society at large. Real engineers are motivated by a desire to build and improve society; the idea of sabotaging society for the sake of personal interests is anathema to us. Train drivers came to be called "engineers" because they operate engines; this is another practice that must come to an end. Perhaps train drivers will soon be eliminated from the workforce anyway.

Whatever registration scheme is implemented, it must be entirely separate to the Institution of Engineers Australia. I believe that the Institution of Engineers Australia currently offers very little benefit to its members and is instead more of a self-serving, profit-seeking enterprise.