

**Submission
No 48**

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS REGISTRATION BILL 2019

Name: Mr Bede Spannagle

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Submission for the Legislative Assembly Committee Inquiry into Professional Engineers
Registration Bill 2019.

Dear Committee members,

Please consider my submission to the Legislative Assembly Committee Inquiry into the Professional Engineers Registration Bill 2019.

I am a Civil Engineer with 27 years of experience working in Local Government. My current role is as the Director Engineering at Riverina Water, a Local Government water authority based in Wagga Wagga, servicing a population of 73,000. My role includes the oversight of the engineering and operational aspects for the organisation, including the supervision of 12 professional engineers, specialists and engineering cadets.

I support the mandatory registration of professional engineers in NSW.

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.

Riverina Water employs electricians and plumbers that have to be licensed, to ensure their work is conducted in a safe manner, to certain standards. However, the engineers that scope, design, build and manage the very same projects have NO licensing or registration requirement. Anyone can, (and have done so in the past), call themselves an engineer.

There is plenty of evidence highlighting that a lack of engineering input negatively affects project outcomes. I'll refrain from focusing on any of the well publicised recent examples, but they show the magnitude of both government and private organisations that have hollowed out their engineering capacity and replaced it with para-professionals or unqualified 'project managers'. This has led to elevated risk to public safety, and major projects running overtime and over budget. A mandatory engineer registration scheme would go some way to redress these problems.

It makes common sense to introduce a mandatory engineering registration scheme, to restore public confidence, give consumers the confidence in the service/product/property they are purchasing, and give people the knowledge that there is some level of control over those responsible for their community infrastructure.

The community deserve a better system. The NSW community deserve the same levels of protection afforded by the Qld and Vic governments, and I believe the Engineer Registration Bill is one positive step in the right direction.

Yours sincerely,



Bede Spannagle

Director Engineering – Riverina Water

