

**Submission
No 53**

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS REGISTRATION BILL 2019

Organisation: Building Designers Association of Australia

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Building Designers Association of Australia, Submission

“The Professional Engineers Registration Bill”

30 January 2020

The Building Designers Association of Australia (BDAA) is a not-for-profit, peak industry Association representing Australian Designers involved in, or associated with the built environment nationally. Our key role is to educate and raise awareness of designers within the industry, to build and sustain relations with the key stakeholders, and to provide services to our members.

The BDAA supports the Professional Engineers Registration Bill 2019 because it will deliver much-needed benefits to the NSW community. It also reflects the expectations of the general public for better protections for the community when it comes to standards of professional practice.

Furthermore, the implementation of a registration scheme for engineers will improve the ability for BDAA members to confidently source professional engineering services safe in the knowledge that minimum levels of competence have been assessed.

An Act of Parliament is the most appropriate way to regulate and register the work of professional engineers. It should apply to people who wish to provide professional engineering services (though it is not necessary to apply it to those who perform their work under supervision or if they are only applying prescriptive standards).

The primary benefit delivered by the Bill is a compulsory means for ensuring that only trained, appropriately experienced and competent professional engineers are delivering engineering services. Furthermore, for the first time, anyone found unable to perform to the standards expected of society can be barred from practice.

A government-run register of engineers that is modelled on the QLD scheme is the ideal way forward. Queensland has had statutory registration requirements since 1929, and Victoria passed its own *Professional Engineers Registration Act* in August 2019.

The Bill takes a sensible approach by promoting common standards across state borders, as evidenced by its reflection of the QLD and Victorian systems.

We note that the Bill is being examined in the context of building sector reforms and is fully supported by the BDAA.

It should also be noted that, if passed, the Professional Engineers Registration Bill will provide the means for recognising registered engineers in the building sector; that is a key component of the NSW Government's draft reforms that are contained in the Design and Building Practitioners Bill.

If you wish to discuss this submission further, please contact CEO Chris Knierim

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Yours sincerely

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Chris Knierim

CEO

Building Designers Association of Australia