

**Submission  
No 54**

## **PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS REGISTRATION BILL 2019**

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# Inquiry into the Professional Engineers Registration Bill 2019 Submission

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 spent my entire career in the NSW rail industry in the area of rolling stock, primarily passenger rolling stock procurement. Given the large potential for safety issues and expense overruns to occur in this industry, there is a compelling case for the registration of Engineers with the aim to ensure public confidence in the rail transport area and the efficient and effective use of public funds.

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 (for example, architects, builders, electricians, plumbers, doctors, nurses, etc.) have had registration and licensing regimes in place for many years to guarantee professional standards, protect the profession from unscrupulous and unqualified operators and, above all, protect public safety.

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 safety and welfare, and closes a long-time regulatory gap which makes no sense.

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 projects 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 qualified engineers in the profession the respect they deserve.

Yours sincerely,  
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