

Update: Professional Engineers Registration Bill 2019

Dear Members

VACC has been lobbying hard both publicly and behind the scenes to have the Professional Engineer's Registration Bill 2019 defeated.

The proposed legislation will affect the cost of doing business for both engineers and businesses who enlist their services.

Originally launched in reaction to poor building work (cladding etc), automotive and mechanical engineers have been swept up in this new legislation – even though they have a vastly different work profile compared with civil engineering.

Letters have been sent to all Members of the Legislative Council (Victoria) from VACC CEO, Mr Geoff Gwilym. The letter outlines the key arguments as to why the Bill should not be supported. You can access the letter [here](#).

In short, VACC argues that the Bill has not undergone the required scrutiny for the development of new law. It has no cost benefit analysis (if it has then this has been kept secret) and no Regulatory Impact Statement (best practice for any new piece of legislation).

Our key points include:

1. Registration does not make the profession or industry safer.
2. There are already regulatory bodies overseeing engineers' work.
3. It will drive up costs for consumers and government.
4. It will penalise women and others taking leave while in the profession.
5. Registered engineers carry all the risk.
6. The Bill encourages vexatious claims.
7. The Bill will apply to past and present engineering work.
8. Mandatory 'codes of conduct' are still secret.
9. Non-engineers making 'engineering' decisions can be penalised.
10. The Bill substantially increases red-tape.

VACC has also run a digital campaign via various channels. You can view these references below:

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6568003326200414208>

VACC website (News): <https://vacc.com.au/News/Blog-Details/ArtMID/851/ArticleID/2058/Engineer%E2%80%99s-Bill-lacks-industry-consultation>

VACC website (Media release): <https://vacc.com.au/News/Media-releases/Media-release-details/ArtMID/834/ArticleID/2057/Engineer%E2%80%99s-Bill-lacks-industry-consultation>

The Bill is set to be debated in the Upper House next Tuesday, 27 August.

I encourage members to share these communications through your own networks – especially LinkedIn.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards

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