



Professional Engineers Registration Scheme

REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

We asked the community and stakeholders to provide feedback on key components of the proposed Professional Engineer Registration Scheme.

The objective of the scheme is to provide people and companies who engage engineers with confidence that those engineers have the necessary qualifications, experience and competencies to provide professional engineering services. Following community and stakeholder consultation on the proposed scheme, the scheme will be finalised, with legislation prepared and a Bill presented to the Legislative Assembly in late 2022.

THE CONVERSATION

Feedback Form and Submissions

From 23 August to 20 September 2022, public consultation was hosted on the ACT Government's Yoursay page. Feedback was collected via written submissions and through an online feedback form. A Consultation Paper was provided that outlined the key components of the scheme and asked questions about the scheme. The questions were also contained in the feedback form.

Industry Workshop

We held an industry workshop with representatives from key stakeholder organisations and individuals to discuss their views on the proposed scheme. In the workshop, the discussion explored a range of key issues around the definition of professional engineering services, the cost/benefit of the scheme, phasing, and more.

WHO WE ENGAGED

Feedback was collected from individual stakeholders and members of the community, along with the following industry organisations:

- Engineers Australia
- Consult Australia
- ICON Water
- ACOR Consultants
- Master Builders Association
- Professionals Australia
- Douglas Partners Consulting
- NSW & ACT Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia
- Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU)
- The Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air conditioning and Heating
- MOCE Building Hydraulic Services Consultancy

We received 27 responses on the feedback form (from 24 individuals/organisations). We also received 16 written submissions.



Key community insights

Overall, individuals and stakeholders were supportive of the proposed scheme, with most feedback relating to issues relevant to the implementation of the scheme.

In summary, feedback responses:

1. supported the ACT's approach to having consistency with other jurisdictions and the national framework developed by the ABCB Office in response to the Building Confidence Report commissioned by Building Ministers
2. supported the initial five areas of engineering for registration with helpful feedback on future areas of engineering to be considered
3. wanted to ensure the scheme was not duplicating or undermining existing industry association accreditation/registration schemes
4. suggested that alternative pathways should balance the need to recognise alternative qualification pathways for those in the industry already, or in specific fields of engineering, but need to ensure not to diminish the value of engineering qualifications in the community, i.e not lowering the bar for registration
5. supported the use of assessment entities with appropriate protections to avoid applicant's "shopping around for a favourable assessment"
6. raised concerns about the inclusion of certain matters in the fit to practice eligibility criteria
7. sought further clarification on:
 - a. Continuing professional development requirements
 - b. Code of practice contents
 - c. the application of Automatic Mutual Recognition
 - d. phasing of applications and registrations
 - e. the approach to the Public Register and publication of disciplinary proceedings underway
8. made suggestions for areas of focus in the communication of the proposed scheme and guidance material for industry
9. made suggestions for areas for further consultation during the implementation phase.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Your participation and feedback is important to settling the final design of the registration scheme. Your views will be used to help us refine the final design of the scheme, and how it is implemented.

We would like to thank all respondents for their time and express our appreciation for all of the feedback and information we have received on the Professional Engineer Registration Scheme.

If you have any questions about this project or would like to be kept updated on its progress, please email EPSDDBuildingReform@act.gov.au.



Key Timings	Date	Status
Community and key stakeholder consultation	August – September 2022	Complete
Legislation introduced in the Legislative Assembly	November 2022	Upcoming
Implementation of the scheme (proposed)	September 2023 onwards	Upcoming

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

1,476

YourSay webpage views

799Unique visitors to the
YourSay page**720**Downloads of the
Consultation Paper**43**Distinct pieces of
feedback received