

Business licensing reform inquiry

Response ID:33 Data

1.

1. Your contact details

First name

Brendan

Last name

Marsh

Organisation (if responding on behalf of an organisation)

3. Please indicate who you represent:

Business or occupational licence holder

4. Which business or occupational licence(s) do you hold or are you affected by?

Engineer

Bushfire Planning and Design

Road Traffic Manager/Road Safety Auditor

5. How do these business or occupational licences affect you and what suggestions do you have to improve them?

Engineer: There is much wasted time, effort and money associated with dealing with people in engineering roles who lack qualification and competency. Government has clearly been receiving substandard advice as a result of this issue to their detriment on many projects. It is essential that WA adopts registration on the National Engineers Register as a requirement to perform engineering roles.

Bushfire Planning and Design: The Government recently introduced this scheme. It should be improved by:

1. Allowing Bushfire Attack Level assessments to account for classified vegetation clearing actions of a proposed development. For example, a new house on land with grass that has become too long is currently required to be assessed BAL-FZ, which is ridiculous given the threat will be gone shortly after construction commences.

2. Allowing Bushfire Attack Level Assessments and Bushfire Management Plans to account for Council vegetation management requirements (e.g. under firebreak notices). It is ridiculous when development is prevented or costs blown out owing to a neighbour not adequately maintaining their garden/land. The Assessor should be able to rely upon their alerting of the Council to the non-conformance because the implementation of the scheme has caused substantial improvement in vegetation control under the firebreak notices, and, the reality is any occupier is susceptible to failing to maintain land (e.g. health deteriorates, rental property vacancy, etc) - thus the matter represents a major inconsistency which is undermining of confidence in government.

3. Currently Level 1 practitioners are not accredited to prepare Bushfire Management Plans. The process of preparing a plan requires the BPAD Level 1 skill set to assess the vegetation and then requires civil engineering to establish asset protection zones, implement building protection measures, vehicular access (including turning around and passing of fire trucks) and water supply. NER Civil Engineers with BPAD Level 1 should be immediately elevated to BPAD Level 2 because their competency reliably exceeds that achieved through the currently available BPAD pathways.

Road Traffic Manager / Road Safety Auditor. Fundamentally, these qualifications are fundamentally about road engineering. Yet, these schemes don't recognise even the most experienced professional road engineers on the National Engineers Register in Civil Engineering. The training requirements of the schemes are tedious often involving trainers with blatant misunderstandings of engineering, which is dangerous. So, engineers tend to stay away, which is to the detriment of government as substandard outputs are constantly observed, and WA's poor road safety standing relative to the rest of Australia

continues to worsen. NER Engineers are required to act within their competency and undertake Continuing Professional Development. All NER Engineers should be urgently approved to lead Road Traffic Manager and Road Safety Auditor roles.

6. Are there aspects of the business and occupational licensing arrangements that affect you that are working well?

More obscure and highly specialised subfields are going well, because major tertiary and upstanding professional qualifications are accepted and relied upon, and aren't blocked by ill-conceived check lists and administrators lacking in capability, ethics or common sense.

7. Do you have any other comments?

Effort must be made to embrace existing upstanding professions to improve efficiency and boutique "professional industry" capability. Not doing so is costing jobs as more initiatives are deferred or deemed to lack feasibility due to the over regulation and red tape.