

1.

## 1. Your contact details

### First name

Will

### Last name

Neethling

### Organisation (if responding on behalf of an organisation)

De-Consult Pty Ltd

## 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?

The Regulation of Engineers in Western Australia, and in fact in the whole of Australia.

I support the proposed co-regulatory model which is proposed by Engineers Australia.

While I have selected "Business or occupational licence holder", I equally support consumer rights and protection.

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

As a practising engineer, I am concerned about the lack of regulation of the engineering profession in our state.

A well considered co-regulatory model, as proposed by Engineers Australia, is most appropriate in my opinion.

As a former President (2014) of the WA Division of Engineers Australia, I have seen the efforts made by the profession over many years to get regulation established. In an ideal world, we need a nationally consistent model, or at least state models that are mutually recognised.

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

There is currently no regulation, which potentially puts clients at risk by allowing people without appropriate skills to provide engineering services. In this regard, I am not only referring to people without any formal qualifications or training, but also to people with high qualifications in one area who then practice in another area in which they have no skills or training.

This is where the co-regulatory system will work well, with the profession providing the skills and qualification assessments based on what the profession believes is appropriate, and then for Government to act as the custodian of the Regulations and apply penalties or sanction as necessary.

## 7. Do you have any other comments?

There are 3 internationally recognised occupational categories in the engineering profession, and Engineers Australia recognises the 3 categories, as does the Federal Government in the skilled migration programs. Any proposed regulation needs to acknowledge and account for all 3 these categories. They are fully described in Engineers Australia's submission, and are Professional Engineers (4 year degree or equivalent), Engineering Technologist (3 year degree or equivalent) and Engineering Associate (4 year degree or equivalent).

In essence I support a c-regulatory model whereby the profession (Engineers Australia) determines the skill levels required for various areas of engineering and occupational categories, assesses practitioners accordingly, registers them and keeps such a register, and then the Government provides the rigour in

applying sanctions for offenders. Government may, at its discretion, seek advice from the profession. Of course, to maintain a balance, the profession may query any Government decisions in regard to the interpretation of the Regulations.

I further suggest that Government actively engages with the profession in determining the details of any proposed regulation system