

Review's interim findings boost case for national engineer registration

Engineers Australia has welcomed the National Competition Council's interim [findings](#) from its first round of consultation on mutual recognition arrangements for worker licenses across states and territories, saying they reinforce the case for a nationally consistent registration system for engineers.

The engineering peak body, together with Consult Australia, Professionals Australia, and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia [contributed](#) to the report.

Its release is part of an independent review of Australia's mutual recognition schemes for workers and addresses the limitations of current arrangements, including that the schemes work best where there is a high level of regulatory alignment between jurisdictions.

Engineers Australia CEO Romilly Madew AO said the latest insights confirm that inconsistencies between jurisdictions and gaps in regulatory alignment are limiting the effectiveness of streamlined labour mobility, particularly in professions such as engineering.

"The Council's findings reflect what the engineering profession has long experienced - mutual recognition alone is not enough to ensure cross border project consistency around financial, safety and bureaucratic process," Ms Madew said.

The interim report identifies benefits to moving to a national scheme for occupations with large and mobile workforces and where workers frequently conduct work interstate remotely from their home state.

Engineers Australia endorses this approach for engineering, where there is tripartite support from industry, unions and government for a national approach.

"A national registration scheme would help address current inefficiencies, reduce administrative burden and boost productivity," Ms Madew said.

The interim report also noted the need for improved information sharing across states and territories and support for digital licensing and a national register – key elements of Engineers Australia's advocacy for a national registration scheme.

Engineers Australia is calling for continuing engagement from industry, regulators and governments as the review progresses, with the Council's final report due in July.

Ends.

About Engineers Australia

As Australia's national body for engineering, Engineers Australia is the voice and champion of our 140,000 members. Providing them with the resources, connections and growth they need to do ethical, competent and high-value work in our communities.

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Quote attributable to Jonathan Cartledge, CEO of Consult Australia:

“Across Australia’s most innovative small and medium-sized firms to global corporations, engineers deliver the solutions to the nation’s most complex challenges.

“The Government has an opportunity to deliver high-impact reform. The interim finding on a national licensing framework would address regulatory fragmentation that directly impacts workforce mobility – an issue that is fundamental to solving Australia’s productivity challenge.”

Quote attributable to David Jenkins, CEO, Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia:

“From a public works and infrastructure standpoint, change has been needed for some time. Engineers require a framework that matches the reality of their work - spanning regions, jurisdictions, and industries.

“A national registration system will bring greater uniformity, boost public trust, and help ensure engineering skills can be directed to where they’re most needed. We welcome the Review’s interim findings.”

Quote attributable to Sam Roberts, CEO of Professionals Australia:

“As the union for engineers, we see every day how fragmented registration and licensing rules slow projects down, increase costs and create unacceptable gaps in accountability across state borders.

“The Council’s interim findings underline what our members have been telling us for years, mutual recognition on its own does not deliver a genuine register once, practise anywhere system. A single national registration scheme, built on the most mature frameworks already in place, would protect public safety, support fair conditions for engineers and lift Australia’s productivity by allowing skills to move quickly to where they are needed most.”