

## A national registration scheme for engineers is the nation's next productivity push

Australia's peak engineering and professional services organisations have joined forces to ask the Australian Government to introduce a national registration scheme for professional engineers to boost productivity, enhance public safety and cut red tape.

In a joint letter to Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers, Engineers Australia, Consult Australia, Professionals Australia and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia have signalled their commitment to working with governments across Australia to replace the current fragmented system with a unified approach that delivers for the government, businesses, practitioners and the community.

"Engineering is at the heart of Australia's economy, delivering the infrastructure, housing, technology and innovation that keep the nation moving," said Romilly Madew AO, CEO of Engineers Australia.

"Yet despite this critical role, there's no nationally consistent framework to ensure that only qualified, competent professionals can practise.

"Engineers Australia was pleased that federal, state and territory treasurers [announced](#) in September that they would look at reform opportunities in occupational licensing across a number of trades and occupations.

"A national scheme for engineers would streamline regulation, enhance public safety and help Australia meet its future infrastructure and workforce needs."

Engineering registration currently varies state by state, creating regulatory gaps, barriers to workforce mobility and impacting our economic productivity. In contrast, a national scheme would deliver:

- Economic benefits - improving productivity, boosting workforce mobility and cutting red tape
- Stronger public protection - ensuring consistent professional standards
- Global competitiveness - aligning Australia with international best practice
- Greater trust and transparency across the engineering sector.

There are more than 545,000 qualified engineers in Australia. A nationally consistent registration scheme is one of the profession's top priorities, with polling commissioned by Professionals Australia showing 93% of Australians support registration of engineers, with nearly 8 in 10 engineers backing the reform.

Australia already has the building blocks in place. The engineering profession operates under internationally recognised standards through the International Engineering Alliance (IEA) Accords, helping to ensure qualifications and professional competence are benchmarked globally.

"Engineers are central to solving Australia's productivity challenge," said Ms Madew. "It's time to remove regulatory fragmentation. We look forward to a system that supports better outcomes for our growing communities."

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### 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.*

**Quote attributable to Jonathan Cartledge, CEO of Consult Australia:**

“A national registration scheme for engineers would be a high-impact reform. Across our membership, we estimate more than \$54 million is tied up in duplicated registration costs caused by inconsistent state systems. That’s money engineering businesses could invest in skills and technology to lift productivity.”

*About Consult Australia*

Consult Australia represents consulting businesses in design, architecture, engineering and technical services – an industry comprised of 58,600-plus businesses that directly employ more than 285,000 people. From building design to advisory services on major infrastructure, Consult Australia members shape, create and sustain Australia’s built and national environments.

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

“A nationally consistent registration framework is essential to build public confidence and strengthen the capability of our engineering workforce. As the people responsible for managing much of Australia’s public infrastructure, local government engineers in particular need a system that supports mobility, competence, and accountability across every jurisdiction.”

*About IPWEA*

IPWEA is the peak association for infrastructure asset management and professionals who deliver public works and engineering services. We provide comprehensive educational programs, technical publications, advocacy on behalf of our members, and the chance to network and collaborate with peers both nationally and internationally through our annual conferences. With offices throughout Australia, New Zealand and Canada, we are committed to developing the capacity and capability within the sector and delivering value to the communities we serve.

**Quote attributable to Sam Roberts, CEO of Professionals Australia:**

“Professionals Australia represents engineers whose work is critical to the safety of our communities, underpins our nation’s infrastructure and drives Australia’s economic strength. A national registration scheme would enable us to do what is needed: fast-track harmonisation upwards to the most mature and broad-based scheme already in place across the country.”

*About Professionals Australia*

Professionals Australia is a contemporary union and professional association representing over 20,000 professionals across STEM, including engineers, scientists, and IT specialists. With a long-standing commitment to the engineering profession, we support members working across the public and private sectors through advocacy, professional development, and industrial representation. Our organisation brings together technical expertise and policy insight to support a highly skilled, future-ready workforce that underpins Australia’s infrastructure and economic resilience.