

NEWSLETTER

ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES REGISTRATION BOARD
HIRANGA TOHU – TO HOLD UP AND QUALIFY EXCELLENCE



Issue 3 - March 2022

REA STORY

Valuing the REA Credential - Phil Huse-White

Our Deputy-Chair, Phil Huse-White, says Auckland Watercare recognised the REA credential in 2018 in its Compliance Statement Policy and that's good for gaining work and project sign-offs. He's currently working with Auckland Council to ensure that the REA is recognised as a credential worthy of being able to provide design and construction supervision certification on land development projects within the Auckland region.

He feels that his broad NZCE background enables him to be an all-round engineer. Phil says that having the REA (and REAcap) credential to back that up had proved to be invaluable in his career.

Phil says he was brought up with engineering in his blood. His father (now retired) was a civil engineering contractor and chairman of the Contractors' Federation for several years. He worked on major infrastructure projects throughout New Zealand from the Huntly power station to numerous major motorway projects. Phil had enjoyed tech drawing at school and his dad suggested that he enrol in the NZCE (Civil) at Carrington Polytech (now Unitec) in 1992. Courses included applied civil engineering, fluid mechanics, surveying, and geotechnical design. Phil applied for a job at Works Consultancy (now WSP Opus) where he worked in the Auckland civil design office for 4 years. He completed the drainage design for a major motorway project that ironically his father then ended up constructing!

Working for Opus was a great start to Phil's career. Phil wanted a broad-ranging career so then took up a position with a smaller private consulting company in 1998 and spent the following 15 years working his way up from staff engineer to associate director. In 2012, he started his own company where we complete public infrastructure designs and land development work within the Auckland region and now employ close to a dozen technical and administrative staff.

He feels very privileged to work with a fantastic team of engineers. The REA credential does seem to 'fly below the radar', but the other REA's that he knows within the industry all 'do us proud' and value the REA worth as much as he does.

Phil became an REA (Civil) in 2004. He was passed REAcap (Civil) in 2018.

Engineering Associates Registration Board

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REGISTERED ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES - SURVEY REPORT

Results of the REAs survey were published on the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment website on 1 February and are available [here](#).

FEES UPDATE

The Engineering Associates Fees Amendment Regulations 2022 come into force on 1 April 2022. The regulations raise the annual registration fee from \$95 to \$200. The early payment discount has been deleted.

REACAP

The Board supports REAcap (competency assessed practitioner) validation as recognition of current technical engineering competency. Although REAcap remains voluntary the maintenance of continuing professional development (CPD) has become good practice and is common in many professions. Furthermore, there are early indications that any future regulatory regime for engineers may consider extending the maintenance of continuing competency from the current group of chartered engineering professionals to other engineering occupational groups, including technician engineers.

To encourage uptake and maintenance of REAcap a change being considered is a reduction of the validation period from 4 to 2 years. Accordingly, the CPD requirement would be 25 hours/2 years. If implemented, this change would likely be coupled with an on-line tool for concurrent CPD recording. Comments on this proposal are invited.

In the meantime, additional REAcap information will be made available on the Board's website soon. This will include broader examples of a CPD schedule to illustrate the general range activities acceptable as CPD in anticipation more REAs will consider pursuing REAcap. Views are also sought about the benefits and relevance, or otherwise, of REA and REAcap versus the worth of academic engineering qualifications, whether they have a practical experience component or not.

If you did not return your REAcap re-validation papers sent in October it is assumed that you will not be maintaining REAcap, therefore, your next fees invoice will be for REA only.

Applications for REAcap re-validations received before the end of February have now been sent to assessors. It may be a few more weeks before all assessments are completed but it is anticipated re-validations will be up to date by the end of March.