

2021 ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES REGISTRATION BOARD REPORT

The usual four Board meetings were held in 2021. All existing Association nominated members were reappointed for a further term of two years.

The Board engages with our sponsor, MBIE, on a regular basis. Out of this engagement we have secured access to several of their resources and financial cover for the mandatory engagement of Audit New Zealand to check we are not fiddling the books.

A considerable amount of Board effort has been focused on the Government's proposed Regulation of Occupational Engineers. The Board's has adopted an approach of "we are here to help" with the Government to make the changes a success. To this end, the Board has lodged submissions on the proposal, opened dialogue with Engineering New Zealand, asked existing REA pathway to be grandfathered in the legislation, and promoted our registration requirements and system.

We are advocating for a tiered system which caters for the equivalent of REAs distinct from professional engineers. Each tier would have limits on complexity and scale of works it can approve. One thing that is becoming clear is the need to maintain current competency through something akin to a practicing certificate (REAcap).

The Board's finances are rapidly declining on the back of dwindling registrant numbers and increased costs. MBIE undertook a survey of REAs to assess the appetite for an increase in the annual registration fee. The majority of REAs supported the increase and new rate is set at \$200 pa from 01 March 2022. At the new rate, the Board expects to be able to remain viable until the new regulatory regime is established.

As always, drop me an e-mail or give me a call if you have any thoughts or concerns you would like me to take to the Board table.

Bruce Hurley

NZEI Nominee on the Engineering Associates Registration Board