

Comment

Whilst I appreciate that the costs to Government for the implementation and running of the new Professional Engineers Registration Scheme should be reimbursed or recovered under the proposed fees, I should sincerely hope that this does not become a profit making exercise at the expense of Professional Engineers. The costs must not be too onerous or prohibitive but should be equally fair for all Engineers and as simple as possible without too many needless sub-categories. Engineers in spite of their most critical role in society are quite poorly paid and it would not be fair to impose such high fees given this unfortunate reality. This scheme quite frankly should not even be in place, was it not for the lobbying of certain organisations with a huge vested interest in its implementation. A Professional Registration Scheme for Engineers was already in place (in Victoria) and operating very well through the VBA (this fact was most conveniently hidden from the public as much as possible by certain parties during the lobbying phase for this new scheme). This existing scheme through the VBA could quite easily have been expanded upon to accommodate any perceived future requirements. The current scheme through the VBA costs me \$130.90 a year which is a simple one off payment (and affordable). Why then do we now through the new scheme have to pay much higher fees for what? A new scheme that essentially does nothing more than the old and currently operating scheme through the VBA. There are no special bells and whistles (of benefit to Engineers or any other parties for that matter) in the new scheme that should somehow justify the increased costs, if anything it amounts to nothing more than an increase in the already onerous conditions placed upon Engineers. Furthermore, the proposed assessment entities for this new scheme should not be allowed to gouge the system and profit off the back of Engineers by charging huge costs for their own particular services as this should not be a profit making exercise for any party. Many of these organisations are already charging their own extortionate (and unjustifiable) membership costs which many Engineers are already paying on top of any new fees chargeable under the new registration scheme. This looks like just another politically driven toothless tiger scheme that will not amount to anything substantially beneficial in the long run but serve to only push Engineers away from an already difficult industry.

Sincerely yours from a Professional Practicing Civil Engineer.