

12 February 2020

The Chair
Committee on Environment and Planning
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

INQUIRY INTO THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS REGISTRATION BILL 2019

The Insurance Council of Australia¹ ([Insurance Council](#)) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Professional Engineers Registration Bill 2019 (the Bill).

The Insurance Council understands that the Bill seeks to ensure that NSW based engineers are registered, appropriately regulated and monitored. Furthermore, we understand that the Bill is consistent with similar schemes in other states such as Queensland and Victoria and would be in line with recommendations of the Shergold-Weir Building Confidence report that supported a nationally consistent approach to registration of building practitioners.

In recognition of the wider context of the Bill, we note submissions by industry associations, Engineers Australia and the Association of Professional Engineers Australia, which state that the reforms proposed in the Bill complement the NSW Government's proposed Design and Building Practitioners Bill.

Insurance Council members strongly endorse initiatives to achieve and maintain rigorous construction standards in Australian buildings in order to minimise if not eliminate the risk of building failure. Given this, we support appropriate regulation of engineers and other building professionals in order to lift standards and so minimise the possibility of a recurrence of the current problems in the building industry. In addition, the Insurance Council supports a national approach to reforming the building sector as a matter of priority. Timely and consistent implementation of the Shergold-Weir Building Confidence report will provide certainty both for consumers and insurers.

¹ The Insurance Council of Australia is the representative body of the general insurance industry in Australia. Our members represent about 95 per cent of total premium income written by private sector general insurers. Insurance Council members, both insurers and reinsurers, are a significant part of the financial services system. September 2019 Australian Prudential Regulation Authority statistics show that the general insurance industry generates gross written premium of \$49.5 billion per annum and has total assets of \$128.3 billion. The industry employs about 60,000 people and on average pays out about \$155.1 million in claims each working day. Insurance Council members provide insurance products ranging from those usually purchased by individuals (such as home and contents insurance, travel insurance, motor vehicle insurance) to those purchased by small businesses and larger organisations (such as product and public liability insurance, professional indemnity insurance, commercial property, and directors and officers insurance).

If you have any questions or comments in relation to our submission please contact Mr John Anning, the Insurance Council's Head of Policy, Regulation Directorate, on telephone: 02 9253 5121 or email: janning@insurancecouncil.com.au

Yours sincerely



Robert Whelan
Executive Director & CEO