



15 October 2015

Mr Mark Warner  
Committee Clerk  
Standing Committee on Legislation  
GPO Box A11  
PERTH WA 6837

[lclc@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:lclc@parliament.wa.gov.au)

– BY EMAIL –

Dear Mr Warner

**Re: Submission – Taxation Legislation Amendment Bill 2014**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed *Taxation Legislation Amendment Bill 2014* ('the Bill').

Engineers Australia is the peak representative body for the engineering profession in Australia. With over 100,000 members across Australia, we represent all disciplines and branches of engineering. Engineers Australia is constituted by Royal Charter to advance the science and practice of engineering for the benefit of the community.

Engineers Australia strongly objects to provisions outlined in the Bill that could see 'fourth limb' organisations lose their existing exemption from payroll tax, transfer duty and land tax provisions.

Such a move could strongly and fundamentally challenge the operations of many organisations, including organisations like Engineers Australia, whose most basic *raison d'être* is to promote and advance areas of science and engineering for the benefit of the community at large.

With governments across Australia now openly recognising the critical importance of supporting education in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), organisations like Engineers Australia will play an ever-increasing role in promotion and growth in this area.

To this end, Engineers Australia runs Australia's largest schools outreach program, *EngQuest*, to ensure that our young people have exposure to engineering issues and concepts at an early age. With initiatives like *EngQuest* being possible only through the enormous volunteer effort of our members, this is community service at its most fundamental, and directly reflects our practical efforts to advance education in this country.

In the example of Engineers Australia, this service obligation is enshrined in Royal Charter, and is the most fundamental tenet on which our operations are founded and directed.

The Bill employs the most narrow and misleading definition of 'professional association' that grossly misstates their role in society and looks to deliberately and simplistically focus on service to individuals (i.e. members) over the very obvious and long-standing community service and collective service roles that we perform.

Professional bodies exist to serve a role that government cannot or will not perform. The Bill is a fundamental assault on our mission and objectives, and the origins of the Bill clearly suggest that this is a punitive political measure, rather than a measure designed with the true interest of the community in mind.

Engineers Australia strongly objects to the intention and content of the Bill and we urge the Committee to reject this proposed legislation.

Should you have any questions about this submission, or Engineers Australia's position more broadly, please do not hesitate to contact me directly, either by telephone on 02 6270 6544, or by email on [BJackson@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:BJackson@engineersaustralia.org.au).

Should the opportunity arise, we would welcome the opportunity to appear before the Committee and present our views in person.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brent Jackson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Brent Jackson  
Executive General Manager  
Public Affairs and Marketing