

A look back on another year for engineering in Sydney

As the year comes to a close, Engineers Australia would like to thank its members for their continued support. We look back at the achievements of the Sydney members and committee groups in 2021 and their contributions to the engineering profession and the wider community.

The year 2021 has been a real test for both our society as well as our industry. As we are navigating our way out of the pandemic, at the same time, the engineering professional finds ourselves amidst an unprecedented amount of infrastructure and technology spend. For example, in Transport alone, we are looking at a \$72 Billion investment over the next few years.

We face unprecedented growth in the engineering sector that will require a collective effort from all, approaching each problem we face with innovative thinking and holistic considerations.

Our members have been integral to our progress at Engineers Australia this year, and we want to thank you for being a part of Engineers Australia.

Sydney's had multiple achievements this year, in many cases pivoting our work to online.

Establishment and growth in the Western Sydney

In February, Engineers Australia officially launched the Engineers Australia Sydney Division Western Sydney Initiatives (EAWSI).

Olivia Mirza, the current co-deputy president, has been the chair for this initiative. EAWSI looks to connect businesses, education institutions and professionals to respond and aid the \$14 billion towards transport, health and infrastructure.

Community of practice – construction

We have been pursuing an industry-aligned Community of Practice to develop sector-focused Areas of Practices within Engineers Australia. The first sector targeted is the creation of the Construction Area of Practice.

Led by group chair Tom Laslett, Sydney committee member, a collection of leading engineers from companies within the Australian Contractors Association (ACA) have developed a Construction Engineering Learning and Development Guide.

This development guide was jointly launched by the ACA and Engineers Australia on 30 November 2021 and has been endorsed to be embraced by the ACA member companies.

The development guide aims to create an industry-aligned benchmark of capability for all construction engineers, capturing the construction engineering process. In addition, the development guide will help practising engineers and construction companies build training and development programs to help support and grow engineering construction.

Sydney Engineering Practice Forum

The Sydney Engineering Practice Forum (SEPF) is a quarterly meeting of the chairs and presidents of the various groups, technical societies and subcommittees in Sydney and surrounding regions.

It has been held online throughout the pandemic and has consulted on changes such as the learned society and branch procedures reviews

Education outreach

Despite the cancellation or postponement of some events, virtual delivery has improved accessibility of our programs particularly for those from regional NSW. We've held a number of online programs for students from year seven to year 12 including the Cochlear Autumn School of Engineering, Engineering Summer School, Engineering your Future, Experience It workshops, Discover Engineering workshops and Career Expos.

Engineers on boards

This initiative explores how EA can provide career development pathways for engineers to become proficient in project governance. The team, led by Tom Crow, looks at how this knowledge could lead to opportunities for engineers to be appointed as company directors and to improve project governance performance in Australia.

Supporting migrant engineers

The migrant engineers working group Sydney was formed in November 2021. It aims to provide support in job search and professional orientation to engineers arriving from overseas. This work will continue in 2022 and chair Elena Shulyak hopes to see the group grow.

In 2022, we will bring face-to-face events back to Sydney, while also using virtual event platforms, which are extremely popular and accessible for members in all geographic areas.

In addition to the current suite of work, Engineers Australia Sydney will enhance our advocacy aligned to EA's External Voice Project focusing on sustainable growth and Net Zero. We will continue to collect the industry's feedback and facilitate cross-disciplinary conversation to aid engineering outcomes.

Engineers Australia's holiday shutdown period will run from Monday 27 December 2021 to Friday 7 January 2022. During this time our office will be closed, and there will not be any events held.

Wishing you all the best over the holiday period and into the new year.

Jessica Qiu

President - Sydney