



ENGINEERS
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EVP: Members' Questions

How exactly can Members get involved?

Stage 1, which builds to the preparation of a discussion paper, focuses on Member consultations. If you are interested in being involved at this stage, please ensure your College Chair is aware of your willingness to lend your expertise.

Stage 2 offers all Members the chance to be involved through feedback on the discussion paper. Each discussion paper will be sent to all Members via the e-newsletter, with further opportunities to engage at division level in associated forums often offered as well. The discussion paper will also be used to facilitate consultation beyond the membership. This stage builds to preparation of a policy directions paper, outlining Engineers Australia's position on the relevant issue.

Stage 3 marks the campaign phase, and Members are encouraged to get involved by sharing the policy directions paper and its recommendations.

How can Members raise requests for action on a public policy issue, and how will requests be assessed?

Discuss your idea with your local Division General Manager or the relevant advisor in the Policy and Advocacy team. If in doubt, please send an email to policy@engineersaustralia.org.au. We will discuss options for taking action. Factors will include:

- Is the issue specific to engineering and relevant for Engineers Australia?
- Does the organisation have the capability and/or capacity to pursue the issue?
- Is the matter aligned with current organisational plans?
- Could the issue be pursued as part of a current EVP Workstream activity - or would it need to be resourced separately?

Does Engineers Australia co-advocate with other industry and professional bodies?

The EVP process, especially at Stage 2, focusses upon building networks and alliances for collaborative advocacy opportunities. Engineers Australia is already engaged in various collaborative forums, such as the [Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council \(ASBEC\)](#). We also align with other organisations to pursue mutually supported outcomes – a recent example being our collaboration with Australian Industry Group to [secure high power testing services in Australia](#)¹.

Will Engineers Australia make public comments on the outcomes of COP26 summit, the Commonwealth's policies on climate and energy and the organisation's own recommendations for action?

Engineers Australia often issues statements concerning major government announcements and other significant developments, including in relation to climate change. In recent months, we have done so in relation to the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Climate Change 2021 report](#), and the [Commonwealth's commitment to reach net zero by 2050](#)². We are closely monitoring proceedings at COP26 and will make public comment as appropriate.

Engineers Australia has also contributed to ASBEC's COP26 policy platform, [Five ways the built environment can help Australia transition to a net zero future](#).

Reports on Weeks 1 and 2 of COP 26 were published by Engineers Australia and available for members.

Have there been any 'wins' from the EVP so far?

Yes, the system is working. We have been able to draw on publications and drafts created via the EVP process to develop submissions and briefs, and provide evidence to Parliamentary inquiries.

1 <https://createdigital.org.au/testing-facility-closure-hinder-australian-manufacturing/>

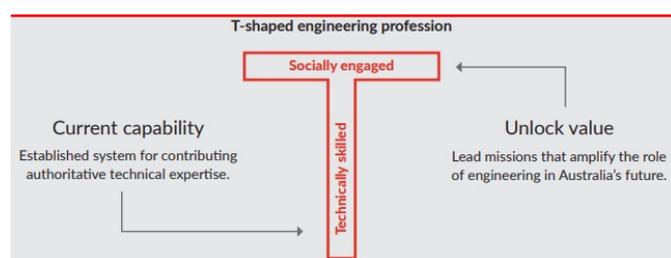
2 <https://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/news/2021/10/engineers-australia-backs-net-zero-commitment-calls-bold-near-term-action-match>

Any plan to engage the public to gain their support on what we advocate?

Stage 3 of the EVP relates to advocacy campaigns. These are likely to include broad community engagement through events, media engagement and social media campaigns. Our intent is to amplify messages and recommendations that come out of the EVP to ensure that we have impact across three spheres of influence: our Members, the wider profession, and those outside the profession. Recognising that the work of engineers is connected to, and impacts, a much larger space, we are always striving to consider where and how to amplify our messages beyond the profession.

How are we ensuring that Engineers Australia remains technical without becoming too externally political...?

Engineers Australia is, at its core, a learned society that sets and maintains professional standards. The EVP intends to advance a 'T-Shaped' model of advocacy – linking our deep technical expertise (the 'vertical') with wider social engagement and relevance (the 'horizontal'):



Engineers Australia's Royal Charter does not preclude its involvement in matters of political significance. On the contrary, it states that informing leaders and decision-makers is critical to advancing the science and practice of engineering for the benefit of the community.

In addition, our core business as a learned society is progressing in several ways. For example, the ongoing Learned Society Review seeks to understand how we can more effectively and efficiently draw on our technical capabilities. Furthermore, the Chief Engineer has embarked on a major project to develop a stronger professional standards framework (PSF).

The Australian Institute of Architects has just updated their national competency standards on climate change, sustainability, and care for Country. Will Engineers Australia follow?

The updated Engineers Australia [position on Climate Change](#)³ has a focus on sustainability.

A major engineering competency review is also underway. This project is directly informed by recent changes to the International Engineering Alliance (IEA) and World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO) graduate attributes and professional competencies (agreed in June 2021) – as well as being indirectly informed by recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change findings. Changes consider reference to the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals.

Public sector engineering expertise has declined significantly over the past few decades. Is this issue within the EVP's remit?

For the Infrastructure Workstream, there is significant focus on capability and technical expertise being incorporated into infrastructure governance and planning. This will be reflected in the final productivity-related Directions Paper, to be published in late 2021. We do acknowledge that this is a long-term issue and a factor in the overarching issue of skills supply and demand - for which there is a separate project managed outside the EVP.

How can we ensure that we are making progressive impact and have a voice along the way, not just in Stage 3 of the EVP process?

A campaign is just one way to promote our messages. Along the way the discussion generated, submissions developed and products released can be amplified through the networks of our over 105,000 Members. Also see the response to the question, "How exactly can Members get involved?"



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What are the KPIs and impact measurements for the EVP?

Engineers Australia's board has an active interest in the EVP. We are always thinking about how, in a year's time, we might demonstrate the impact we have achieved. The positions and recommendations made in EVP workstream activities will vary widely in scale, and may be implemented by both governments and other stakeholders. In addition, many EVP projects will result in emergent impact, with our position or focus areas evolving as the project matures.

We can't predefine the impact that we've had until we take a project through the 3 stages. Ultimately, the impact of each workstream activity will vary. Sometimes it will be measures that industry can readily take, or small-scale policy reforms achievable at pace. Elsewhere, the EVP will contribute to major nation-building initiatives that may be realised over a decade or more.

Regardless of a project's scope, the Policy & Advocacy team has a framework to consider what we've done, what impact it has achieved and in which spheres we've been active and exercised influence.

Is the education sector considered a stakeholder for the EVP?

The education sector is an important stakeholder for Engineers Australia and the EVP is no different. We will seek its input where relevant as part of our standard approach to each workstream activity.

Is there a plan to engage the manufacturing sector, especially with regard to sustainable energy supply

Sustainable energy supply is an issue that cuts across all EVP workstreams. It is partly for this reason that sustainability is captured by the Ethics+ approach to reviewing EVP activities. The manufacturing sector is relevant to many planned and ongoing EVP activities, and will be engaged at the appropriate times.

Will Engineers Australia provide support for Members, with advocacy knowledge and skills, so that they can better engage with stakeholders individually?

Often, the most valuable thing the general membership can do is to share advocacy messages with their own personal networks. Phase 3 campaigns will usually

include a range of communications (e.g. social media posts) that Members will be encouraged to make use of. We may also from time to time create more specific 'calls to action', such as a request to write to your local MP. As the core advocacy messaging tool, directions papers will contain all the key messages we want governments and other stakeholders to hear.

Direct lobbying of politicians and government officials will always be led and coordinated by the Policy & Advocacy team - often in collaboration with Division General Managers for state-specific issues. Members are often asked to support these efforts. We usually draw from the Learned Society groups (Colleges and Technical Societies) for this purpose.

The colleges and societies chairs have no direct contact with their Members. How are they going to reach out to members?

We encourage all Members interested in taking an active role in the work of Engineers Australia to start by becoming involved with their most relevant College or Technical Society. The primary mechanism for keeping the wider membership abreast of EVP progress and opportunities to provide input to the program will be the weekly e-news.

Will resilience planning form part of climate change work?

Resilience planning will inform the Climate Change workstream. It will also be addressed in other workstreams, such as Infrastructure, where relevant.

How effective is Engineers Australia in influencing the government to set policies to address climate change?

Climate change has not previously been a focus of Engineers Australia's advocacy and public outreach. As such, we have not previously exercised notable influence on climate policy.

We recognise that engineers have a leading role to play in efforts to achieve climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience. Work to substantially expand and deepen our engagement, and ultimately our influence, on climate change is underway. Since appointing the Senior Policy Adviser - Climate Change in May 2021, we have developed an updated [position statement on climate change](#) and released statements on major climate-related events such as Australia's net zero by 2050 commitment.



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A project plan for the EVP climate change workstream has also been developed, with the first activity (concerning transport sector emissions) commenced in late 2021.

Separately, the Climate Smart Engineering Initiative will further extend Engineers Australia's activities in the space.

What is it about the Engineers Australia structure & Royal Charter that distinguishes Engineers Australia from an Industry Body?

Industry Associations are created to serve the interests of their corporate members. In contrast, Engineers Australia has a higher purpose. Incorporated by Royal Charter, our Purpose is to:

"...advance the science and practice of engineering for the benefit of the community.

Engineers Australia will achieve its purpose by:

- (a) educating its members and the community;
- (b) facilitating the exchange of ideas and information;
- (c) encouraging the development of knowledge and competency;
- (d) setting and maintaining high professional standards for its members; and
- (e) informing community leaders and decision-makers.