



ENGINEERS  
AUSTRALIA

# 2020 Annual General Meeting

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## MINUTES

**The Annual General Meeting of Engineers Australia  
Engineers Australia, Sydney, Mezzanine Level 44 Market Street, and via videoconference in  
Divisional offices and videoconference externally  
Thursday 2 December 2020 from 5.00pm to 6.30pm AEDT**

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### 1. & 2. WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

A quorum being reached, Chris Champion, the National President and Board Chair of Engineers Australia took the Chair, declared the meeting open and welcomed members.

On behalf of Engineers Australia and the members, the Chair acknowledged the traditional custodians of the country throughout Australia and recognised their continuing connection to land, waters and community and paid our respects to them and their cultures: and to elders past, present and emerging.

The Chair advised the meeting that the agenda had been adjusted with Item 11 "Declaration of the Board 2021" moving to Item 8.

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### 3. APOLOGIES/CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

#### Apologies

An apology was received from Director Dr Marcus Thompson.

#### Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM

The Chair advised that the following amendments to the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Brisbane on the 5th December 2019 have been notified and subject to the confirmation of the Members present were read into the Minutes of the 2020 AGM and the 2019 AGM Minutes were amended accordingly:

- 1) At the first line of Item 4 delete the word "Melbourne" and insert the word "Canberra" in its place;
- 2) At the Heading of Item 8 delete the year "2018" and insert the year "2019" in its place;
- 3) At the second dot point of item 8 delete the words "presented in Sydney by Greg Ewing, General Manager, Sydney Division" and insert the words "presented in Sydney by Bruce Howard, Sydney Division President" in their place;
- 4) At the third dot point of Item 8 repeat the amendment at 3) above;

5. At the fourth dot point at Item 11 delete the word “Coalition” and insert the word “College” in its place.

There being further comments, the Chair moved the Minutes with the amendments noted, be approved as an accurate record of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

Moved: Chris Champion

Seconded:

**Carried**

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#### **4. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2019-20**

The Chair invited the Chief Executive Officer, Dr Bronwyn Evans to present the Annual Report of Engineers Australia 2019-20.

##### **Annual Report**

The CEO:

- noted that Engineers Australia had a successful 2019-20 financial year and highlighted some of the key achievements outlined in the Annual Report noting if there was a theme for the year it was “resilience”;
- publicly acknowledged the bequest of \$1.58 million from the late William “Bill” Hickson noting that as per Bill’s wishes, EA will invest this bequest so the proceeds can fund mechanical engineering scholarships, and his generosity will help support further education for generations to come;
- acknowledged the longstanding advocacy for compulsory registration of engineers noting that legislation had been introduced in New South Wales and Victoria and with other States and Territories to follow;
- noted the success of the World Engineers Convention held in Melbourne in 2019;
- noted the 20|20<sup>+3</sup> Vision strategy which aims to lay the groundwork for the future by helping engineers to become future-ready, increasing our profession’s public impact and amplifying the benefits of membership on business and career success. The CEO also emphasised the 20|20<sup>+3</sup> Vision strategy was developed with the benefit of significant input from members and volunteers;
- advised the members of the part played by Engineers Australia in the Government’s National Bushfire Recovery Peak Bodies Forum and in the response to COVID-19.

The CEO thanked and paid tribute to the outgoing National President and Board Chair, Chris Champion for his leadership and support through a very challenging and ultimately successful period and in overseeing the development and adoption of the 20|20<sup>+3</sup> Vision.

The CEO welcomed the incoming Chair Dr Nick Fleming.

The CEO invited Lucia Cade as the Chair of the Board Audit and Risk Committee (**ARC**) to present Engineering Australia's financial statements for the 2019-20 financial year.

### **Financial Statements**

Lucia Cade, Chair of ARC presented the Financial Report for 2019-2020 and advised the members that the theme for EA overall was "resilience" then the theme for Engineers Australia's financial oversight and management has been "prudence and rigour".

The Chair of ARC indicated the Engineers Australia Group generated an operating surplus of \$4.5 million and that there were 4 major factors underpinning the Group's result:

1. The extraordinary performance by the EEA team to grow the education business by 12% and deliver a surplus of \$5.1m.
2. Successful WEC delivering a \$1m surplus.
3. COVID-19 halted travel in the last 4 months of the year, saving \$0.4m.
4. The investment portfolio managed by Morgan Stanley grew by \$0.5m.

The Chair of ARC acknowledged that good financial management does not just happen and formally acknowledged and thanked the Executive General Manager of Corporate Services, John Lau and the two National Finance Managers, Phil Tunney and Melissa Cologna, for their expertise and leadership in ensuring that the Group finances were well (prudently) managed.

The members noted the Annual Report and the Financial Statements and questions were taken from the floor and from the members participating online. (A summary of the questions is at Attachment 2)

### **Attachments:**

- 1: CEO's Address to the AGM
- 2: Financial Statements Slide Presentation
- 3: Questions from the Floor and from online attendees

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### **5. BUSINESS RAISED UNDER BY-LAW 20.2 OF THE 2015 BY-LAWS**

The National President and Chair advised the meeting that there was no notification of any business raised under By-Law 20.2 of the 2015 By-Laws.

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### **6. Re-APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR 2019**

As the appointment of PwC as the Auditors for Engineers Australia the Chair advised the meeting that PwC having been a continuing appointment pursuant to the Corporations Act, there was no requirement for the members to confirm the appointment.

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## **7. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO HONORARY FELLOWS FOR 2018**

The following Honorary fellows were announced and presented with certificates:

- Bruce Howard - Presented in Sydney by Chris Champion, National President and Chair;
- Dr David Cruickshanks-Boyd – Presented in Sydney by Chris Champion, National President and Chair;
- Professor Robin Batterham AO – Presented in Melbourne by Grant Scott, President VIC Division);
- Emeritus Professor David Beanland AO – Presented in Melbourne by Grant Scott, President VIC Division);
- Neville Power,– Presented in Canberra by Kevin Earle, President Canberra Division;
- Professor Mark Randolph, WA Division– presented in Perth by Jillian Formentin, President WA Division.

The National President congratulated all award recipients.

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## **8 DECLARATION OF THE BOARD FOR 2020 AND RECOGNITION OF DEPARTING DIRECTORS**

(Note: Item 11 in original Notice of Meeting)

The Chair advised the members that the Directors of Engineers Australia for 2021 elected at the November 2020 meeting of National Congress will be:

- Nicholas Fleming
- Lucia Cade
- Trish White
- Raj Aseervatham
- Marcus Thompson
- Hurol Inan
- Kourosh Kayvani

The Chair also welcomed the incoming National President and Chair Dr Nick Fleming.

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## **9. NATIONAL PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS**

The National President and Board Chair presented his address. Highlights for the year and outlined in the National President’s address included:

- That he has probably been the first “virtual President” during 2020 as a consequence of the COVID-19 restrictions;

- 2020 will be regarded as a pivotal year as globally, we enter the fourth industrial revolution, seeing increasing impacts of climate change and experiencing geopolitical power shifts.
- EA is in good shape financially and as a voice of the profession is engaged widely;
- Provided a summary of achievements against the priority areas identified at the 2019 AGM:
  - supporting the CEO in order to help the organisation succeed;
  - developing and adopting the 2020<sup>+3</sup> Vision strategy;
  - growth in Chartered credentialing: and
  - Externally commencing progress on climate change and sustainability;
- Part of the strategic work underway is a review of the Learned Society, which includes one of the most comprehensive ever consultations undertaken with our volunteer leaders. This is a work in-progress that will be critical to EA's future, and that of the engineering profession;

The president congratulated the incoming National President for 2021, Nick Fleming, wished him all the best and thanked the Board Directors for their support in his role as Chair.

(refer Attachment 4 for National President's Address)

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## **10. INCOMING 2021 NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

The incoming National President, Dr Nick Fleming, thanked the Board, the outgoing National President and Board Chair and addressed the meeting.

(refer Attachment 5 for Incoming National President's Address)

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## **11. DECLARATION OF CONGRESS DELEGATES - 2021**

The National President informed the meeting of the 2021 National Congress Delegates (confirmed to date) as:

- Sydney Division: Bruce Howard
- South Australia Division: TBC
- Canberra Division: George Tomlins
- Newcastle Division: Joe Townsend
- Tasmania Division: David Finnigan
- Victoria Division: TBC
- Northern Territory Division: TBC
- Queensland Division: Mark Lendich
- Western Australia Division: TBC
- College of Mechanical Engineers: TBC
- College of Biomedical Engineers: TBC
- College of Chemical Engineers: Grant Scott
- College of Civil Engineers: Tammy Chu
- College of Environmental Engineers: Patrick Coffey

- College of Electrical Engineers: TBC
  - College of Leadership and Management: James Hood
  - College of ITEE: TBC
  - College of Structural Engineers: Sebastian Torralba
  - Overseas Chapter Delegate: TBC
  - YEA: Robert Hoffman
  - WIE: Melissa Jovic
  - Tech Soc: Shalendra Ram
  - SIG NCEAT: Robert Williamson
  - Tech Soc: Nolan Bear
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## **12. MEETING CLOSE**

There being no further business the National President closed the meeting at 6:30pm AEST.

Attachments:

- 1) CEO's Address to the AGM - 2020
- 2) Financial Statements Slide Presentation;
- 3) Questions from the Floor and from online attendees;
- 4) 2020 National President's Address;
- 5) Incoming 2021 National President's Address