



Friday, May 21, 2021

Building and Construction Policy Team
NSW Government Customer Service

The Australian Institute of Refrigeration Air Conditioning and Heating (AIRAH) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Design and Building Practitioners Amendment (Fees) Regulation 2021. We recognise this as an important step in implementing professional registration for engineers and other building practitioners, and in restoring community confidence in our building and construction industry. As Australia's peak organisation representing engineers working in the HVAC&R and building services industries, AIRAH strongly supports these efforts.

With respect to the draft amending regulation, AIRAH would like to provide input on some specific points, and seek clarification.

1. In terms of the fees, different amounts are set for application, renewal and restoration, and for different terms of one, three and five years. Is the term that an applicant selects for their initial application carried over to any subsequent renewals and restorations? For example, would a professional engineer be able to apply for one year, then renew for five years? This would appear to be more economical than applying for five years. Any additional information you can provide would be appreciated.
2. We are interested in learning more about the assessment of engineers in the first phase of the scheme, when our members will apply directly to NSW Fair Trading for registration. Specifically, how will the experience and skills of applicants be assessed, and will there be involvement of experts in the field of HVAC&R and building services? Would NSW Fair Trading be looking for AIRAH to play a role here?
3. We understand that a process has been used to determine the application fees for professional bodies. AIRAH would simply note that the fees proposed for these applications are higher than those in Queensland, where application is free, and Victoria, where the application is in the order of \$4,500. We are committed to supporting the implementation of professional registration of engineers, via a model that is also sustainable for the professional bodies.

We look forward to being involved in the next steps of this process, and supporting the NSW government to strengthen our building and construction industry.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Anthony Gleeson'.

Tony Gleeson, M.AIRAH
AIRAH Chief Executive