

## THE WEB

## THE ZENITH AWARDS NOW

Applications for the 2010 PACE Awards are now open. In its 10th year, the Zenith Awards recognise excellence in engineering projects across ten industries: Automotive & Manufacturing; Chemicals & Petrochemicals; Food & Beverage; Metal Products & Manufacturing; Mining, Minerals & Energy; Oil, Gas & Petrochemicals; Power & Energy; Security & Defence; Transport, Power & Infrastructure; Water & Wastewater. Visit [pacetoday.com.au/awards.aspx](http://pacetoday.com.au/awards.aspx) to complete the entry form. Don't miss out!

## WATER INDUSTRY SEEKS 40,000

The Australian water industry is keen to recruit 40,000 trained water professionals within a decade to service 25 million Australian households due to receive clean, fresh water. Of the 80,000 professionals currently working in the water industry, a large percentage of are over 50 years old and approaching retirement age, contributing to an estimated 40,000 professionals retiring by 2018, according to the CEO of the Australian Water Association.

## WESTON WELCOMES NHP

Electrical Engineering Westons opened a new branch in Launceston, Tasmania, to enhance the company's philosophy of 'what you want, where you want it.' Located at Kings Highway, the new sales and support centre represents the 22nd branch in Australia and New Zealand. NHP says it will continue to invest in growing its business in the future, and will open more sales centres in due course. The branch will allow NHP to better support its customers in the Launceston area.

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## REGULATION

# New engineering project guidelines

THE Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering has released a radical new engineering report outlining professional performance, innovation and risk in the industry. The report provides a framework by which professional engineers should abide when performing professional engineering projects.

Called 'Professional Performance, Innovation and Risk in Engineering Practice', the document was developed by the Warren Centre in conjunction with a team of engineering professionals, including the Australian Centre for Innovation, the Association of Consulting Engineers Australia, and backing sponsors Leighton Holdings, ABB, Sinclair Knight Merz, Bluescope Steel, WorleyParsons and Engineers Australia. The PPIR report was officially launched in Sydney by WorleyParsons chief executive officer and managing director, John Grill (pictured right). According to Grill, the image of the professional engineer in Australia needs to be overhauled.

"The role of the professional engineer in our society is of great importance to me ... Unfortunately, I feel that the term engineer has been misused in Australia ... diminishing its status and blurring its value," he said at the official launch in November.

Developed over a span of five years, the PPIR report highlights the distinctions between the three areas of professionalism – ethics, competency and performance – and offers ways of defining and formalising how experienced engineering professionals interact with, and respond to, their clients, peers and the community.

The report considers a variety of issues affecting engineering professionals and their work, including: community and client expectations; commercial realities affecting engineering projects; the effects of the law on engineering professionals and their work; and engineering risk and responsible risk-taking.



**POLICY:** WorleyParsons CEO and MD Andrew Grill launched the PPIR report in conjunction with the Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering last month.

The authors of the report call it a 'program of change', which is designed to offer benefits to all those involved in buying, selling and using engineering products and services in Australia.

As a result of the PPIR, the engineering industry and profession can raise its public profile, its economic productivity and international competitiveness, the report organisers believe. In addition, engineering professionals will gain recognition for the vitally-important roles they play, the authors claim.

According to Grill of WorleyParsons, the report is both timely and a step forward for engineers in Australia.

"I am personally a great supporter of the PPIR Protocol and am committed to its acceptance by all of the branches and divisions of WorleyParsons," he said. "I strongly encourage you to make the same commitment in the organisations that you represent." The report proposes three initiatives for change. The first is

the concept of a new Hazard and Risk Framework (HARF); the second is a new Australian Standard (AS.PPIR) to act as a 'best practice template' for engineers and clients; and the third is an organised approach to make more effective use of the way that the expert testimony system works in the courts.

According to Australian Centre for Innovation director, Peter North, the new framework could take as little as six months to become effective in the industry, and could offer professional engineers the benefits of: fewer liability issues; a balanced perspective about how to set-up and define an engineering task; and ensure material benefit for everyone involved in buying and selling engineering products and services.

"We're not raising the bar, but uncovering the bar. We're not re-writing the book, but offering a new way of discovering it," he said.

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