

MEDIA STATEMENT

13 October 2017

Roof collapse at Queensland school

In September 2017, a large tiled roof at a Queensland school collapsed suddenly and without warning.

The incident occurred after hours and the building was not occupied at the time.

The Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland (BPEQ) has liaised with Workplace Health and Safety Queensland in relation to the matter and are considering whether there are any concerns about the conduct of registered professional engineers (RPEQ) or compliance issues related to the collapse.

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland has published an important alert about the incident, which can be viewed at www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/injury-prevention-safety/alerts/whsq/2017/roof-collapse.

All RPEQs who practise in structural engineering should immediately read the alert.

Any RPEQ who is engaged to conduct an inspection of similar roof structures should familiarise themselves with and follow the inspection process detailed in the alert.

Any RPEQ who has designed a roof with large spans should immediately consider whether appropriate intermediate support for the spans was provided and take any precautionary measures considered necessary in the circumstances to ensure there is no risk of collapse.

If you are a consumer who requires an inspection of a similar roof structure to be carried out in accordance with the alert, BPEQ recommends you engage a RPEQ registered in the Civil or Structural area of engineering whose area of competence includes the design of large roof structures to carry out the inspection.

You can search for an appropriately registered and competent RPEQ or check a person's registration details using BPEQ's register of RPEQs available on the website at www.bpeq.qld.gov.au.

Further questions about this matter should be directed to Workplace Health and Safety Queensland by calling 1300 362 128.

ENDS

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