



## **Introduction**

This report sets out the activities and achievements of EESA for the 2019/20 Financial year.

The 2019/20 year was another year of change for the EESA with an update of the EESA constitution which was approved by EESA members in September 2019 and a National election in late October/early November for some positions on the "2020" EESA National Council as per the new updated constitution. The impact of COVID 19 from March 2020 also had an effect our activities and on our finances.

Our membership base has grown and EESA members have had access to an even greater range of services in 2019/20 thanks to the efforts of our volunteers in the various chapter committees across Australia.

## **The "2020" National Council**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 Nominations were called to fill the following positions on the National Council:

- Three elected positions as a Member of the EESA National Council
- One appointed position as Young Professional Member of the EESA National Council
- One appointed position as Honorary Treasurer of the EESA National Council

Three eligible nominations were received for three vacant elected positions, which meant that no vote was required. The 3 successful nominees were Natalie Hutchinson (Victorian chapter), Tom Bammann (SA/NT Chapter) and me - Jeff Allen (NSW/ACT Chapter).

The successful nomination for the Young Professional Member was Aditi Sachdeva. The successful nomination for the Honorary Treasurer position was Larry Meng.

Thus, the makeup of the new "2020" National Council from November 2019 was

- Jeff Allen (NSW/ACT) – popularly elected (and elected National President for a 3-year term)
- Abrar Aziz (Vic) – Victorian Chapter Chair
- Tom Bammann (SA/NT) – popularly elected
- Dr Robert Barr (NSW/ACT) – Past National President (for a 1-year term) – non-voting
- Kim Boyd (Queensland) – Queensland Chapter Chair
- Russell Ellen (WA) – Western Australian Chapter Chair
- Natalie Hutchinson (Vic) - popularly elected
- Terry Lampard (NSW/ACT) – NSW/ACT Chapter Chair
- Larry Meng -Treasurer - appointed by the National Council
- Martyn Pearce (SA/NT) – SA/NT Chapter Chair
- Aditi Sachdeva (Vic) – Young Professional – appointed by the National Council
- Pippa Williams (Tas) – Tasmania Chapter Chair
- Penelope Lyons – secretary – non-voting

### **Meetings of the 2019 and 2020 National Councils**

The following sets out the meetings held by the National Council during the 2019/20 financial year. We moved to regular monthly “Teleconference” or “Zoom Meetings” with the exception of a “face to face” meeting in Sydney on the day prior to EECON 2019 in November 2019.

- 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019
- 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – Special General Meeting – Huntingwood (for approval of the updates to the Constitution)
- 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019
- 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019
- 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 - a “face to face” meeting in Sydney for business planning followed by a National AGM
- 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020
- 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020
- 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020
- 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### **Strategy, Business Plan and Budget for EESA**

EESA has a 3-year Strategic Plan and the key initiatives of EESA’s business plan for 2019/20 were as follows.

#### Membership

- Move to 30<sup>th</sup> June annual membership renewal
- Survey members to determine their views on the current EESA services and where they would like to see changes.
- Target a 50% increase in student and individual membership numbers in 2020 over 2019 figures
- Spread the “reach” of EESA by reviewing the types of businesses and their staff that could be interested in EESA membership
- Student members
  - The "University Liaison Coordinator" to work in conjunction with Chapters to establish EESA Campus Coordinators for each University
  - Utilise "virtual poster papers" competitions on the EESA website and LinkedIn and promote these via Universities to engage with students
  - Promotion of prizes/scholarships for university students by each Chapter
  - Offer volunteering opportunities for students for chapter Seminars and “conferences”
  - EESA chapters to host an annual (orientation day?) barbeque to encourage students to join EESA
- Individual Members
  - Follow up of non-members who have attended webinars, seminars and annual conferences and offer incentives to join (e.g. discount to attend EECON or local 1-day events, access to past conference recordings, conference papers etc)
  - Seek nominations for selected members moving to the Fellow grade
  - Target particular topics for webinars and seminars that are of major interest to members (from survey results)
- Corporate Members
  - Regular communication with all corporate member companies by Chapter Chairs and President

- Work with corporate members to set up site visits, on site seminars or webinars regarding their products and services but preferably presented by a customer
- Facilitate Industry Working Groups in particular subject areas with the support of participant organisations as corporate members of EESA

#### EESA Website Replacement

- Establish a Website Working Group (WWG) with National Council Member (Tom Bammann) as chair and representatives from all chapters
- Determine website functional needs, budget requirements and timeline
- Commence the process for procuring an “off the shelf solution” that meets EESA needs

#### Member Communication

- Greater use of social media for promotion of EESA, events and membership benefits
- Regular communication with members & potential members through the use of 5-minute videos (published weekly) on LinkedIn, Facebook and EESA website to generate interest in EESA and EESA events
- Events to be published in What's On (to be issued 2 weekly), the EESA Bulletin (Issued monthly), mail outs and the EESA Website, LinkedIn and Facebook
- Encourage all members and chapters to contribute articles to the monthly bulletin
- Cross promotion of events with partner organizations such as API, CIGRE, CIRED, EA etc

#### Financial

- Set annual budgets for National and Individual Chapters
- Allocate budget for Website Upgrade in 2020/21
- Track and report income and expenditure on a monthly basis for National and All Chapters

#### Events

- Explore opportunities for webinars to be arranged by Corporate members but preferably presented by one of their clients
- Develop an annual national webinar program in consultation with Chapters
- Seek suggestions from members re potential webinar subjects and presenters
- Facilitate the live streaming/recording of all (1 to 2 hr.) seminars arranged by EESA
- Arrange “debates/discussions” between say 2 experts in a particular subject area and have a facilitator control this as a webinar
- Undertake webinars on “fundamental topics” – e.g. “Protection 101” as a resource on the website for students and young members.
- Ensure EECON is highly regarded and relevant - and profitable
- EECON 2020 to be in Sydney with EECON 2021 in Perth and EECON 2022 in Brisbane.

#### National Council

- Review whether EESA should be registered with the NSW Dept. of Fair Trading or ASIC (as an incorporated association)
- Develop/update appropriate policies and procedures
- Finalize a suitable Affiliation Agreement with Engineers Australia.
- Create/define/allocate National Council roles and responsibilities for key activities
- Adopt, communicate, and follow a set of "Values and Behaviours" for all EESA members
- Implement appropriate induction training for new National Council and State Chapter committee members
- Conduct “Effective National Council meetings” using Zoom meetings (say monthly) with 2 face to face meetings per annum

Good progress was made on most of the above initiatives.

## Membership

The EESA business plan focused on a number of initiatives in the member area.

As of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020, the EESA membership base was distributed according to the table below:

Membership Categories	Qld	NSW/ACT	Vic	Tas	SA/NT	WA	Other	Total
Corporate	4	9	10	1	3	3		30
Individual	223	192	104	20	91	93	31	754
Student	37	38	76	3	38	36		228
<b>Total</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1012</b>
<b>No. of female members</b>	<b>71</b>							

Note that the number of members of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 was 893 and thus membership increased by over 13%. Member numbers have also increased considerably in the first few months of 2020/21.

EESA continues to recognize university students and EESA members with appropriate awards. Universities present a \$500 EESA Award to the best final year electrical engineering student and EESA also operates a poster paper competition aimed at encouraging final year electrical engineering students to promote their abilities to the electric energy industry.

The Young Electrical Power Engineer of the year award recognizes a professional engineer who has demonstrated significant achievements in electrical power engineering during their preceding six years. Engineers Australia's Electrical College Board and EESA have jointly developed this award to encourage young Australians to develop a career in electrical power engineering, and also to reward outstanding achievements.

The EESA National Council also recognized a number of members from various chapters for their significant contributions to the field of electric energy and to EESA by awarding them with Fellow and Life memberships in 2019/20.

EESA Life Membership was conferred on

- Russell Ellen, WA Chapter
- David Sweeting, NSW/ACT Chapter

EESA Fellow Membership was conferred on

- Frank Crisci, SA/NT Chapter
- Tony Patterson, NSW/ACT Chapter
- Michael Verrier, Tasmanian Chapter
- David Van Bergen, Victorian Chapter

## EESA Member Events

A total of 59 events were offered to EESA members across Australia from July 2019 until June 2020. This is similar to 2018/19 numbers although the move to national webinars rather than state-based seminars, particularly in the fourth quarter of 2019/20 resulted in more members from across Australia being able to access CPD.

Our relationships with other organizations allowed EESA members access to 10 related events in addition to the 49 directly arranged by EESA.

Note that there has been a considerable increase in the number of national events (mainly national webinars of course) being held in 2020/21

EESA Events 2019 – 2020										
Event categories	National	Qld	NSW/ACT	Vic	Tas	SA/NT	WA	Others	Total	CPD hours
Seminars			2	4	1	2	6	1	16	16
Webinars	1	12	7	1	2	2	2	9	36	36
1-day events				1					1	8
EECON	1								1	16
Other events	3			1			1		5	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>79</b>

Informal feedback from members has been positive regarding the breadth of subject matter and its availability via live webinars or as a recording on the EESA website.

### Financial

The business plan aimed to improve the focus on income and expenditure by all members of the National Council and Chapter committees by regular monthly reviews of income and expenses and the “balance sheet”. The EESA remains healthy financially with more than \$600,000 in assets as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

EESA Finances	As at 30/6/2020	As at 30/6/2019
Annual revenue	\$225,300.10	\$186,412
Annual expenses	\$205,101.77	\$195,316
Annual Profit/Loss	\$20,198.33	-\$8,904
Total Assets	\$616,136.52	\$592,825

Overall finances remain healthy. Larry Meng has continued as National Treasurer and his work is invaluable and very much appreciated.

### Member Communication

The business plan aimed to improve the focus on members and their needs. These initiatives included timely information updates for members, good webinar content, good seminar content and good bulletin content.

EESA produced 11 monthly “Bulletins” with each edition having generally 25 to 30 pages of relevant information for members.

The “What's on at EESA - Events Alert” was produced in between Bulletins to promote EESA events to members.

Direct “Mail Outs” were also produced as required to announce events to members and non-members.

In the Social Media area, there has been greater use of LinkedIn and Facebook to promote EESA and its various events.

### EESA Website Replacement

Unfortunately, the software that supports EESA’s current website will no longer be supported in 2021 and thus we needed to develop a strategy to replace it. Thus, the National Council established a Website Working Group (WWG) with National Council Member (Tom Bammann) as chair and representatives from all chapters to determine website functional needs, budget requirements and timeline. The National Council approved the

recommendations and thus we commenced the process for procuring an “off the shelf solution” that meets EESA needs. It is expected that this will be operational in late 2020 or early 2021.

### **Conclusion**

All the members of the National Council have contributed significantly to the ongoing operations of EESA at both the National and State chapter levels.

The update of the EESA Constitution to better reflect the governance needs of EESA has been a significant achievement in 2019 – and thank you to all those who contributed to the update.

EESA members have been updated on the many changes occurring in the electric energy area by the many detailed articles that have appeared in the EESA Bulletin each month.

As well as the many webinars, seminars, training events and conferences that have been organized by EESA chapters, our affiliate organizations have also provided a great variety of CPD offerings to members.

In summary – another successful year for EESA members and a big thank you to all our volunteers from our State Chapter Committees and members of the National Council for all your contributions to EESA in 2019/20.

The 2020/21 year also promises to be another year of change for the electric energy industry in Australia and for EESA and its members.



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