

# ENGG 1803

## Professional Engineering

Semester 2, 2009

### ESSAY TOPICS

Answer one question from the two options below. Answers should be 1500 words in length and should conform to the Essay report guidelines in the ENGG 1803 UoS manual (p8-10). It is worth 15% of the final mark. It is due on Tuesday 18/8/09, by 4 pm, to Room 246, J13, Link Building. Your essay report must a title page clearly stating your name, SID and the question attempted. Additionally a signed Academic Honesty Compliance statement must be attached to your paper.

(Compliance statement available from Engineering Faculty Office or <http://intranet.eng.usyd.edu.au:8000/policies/Plagiarism.pdf>)

#### Q.1 Technical Writing

This quote below comes from a media report of an inquest into the death of an 11 yr old girl who drowned in a spa pool when seemingly held underwater by suction from the pump. The owner alleges the complexity of information and language in the engineer's report was responsible for not taking action to make the pool safe.

*“In all seriousness I could not understand half the (engineer's) report when I read it. If the report had said in black and white, ‘There's danger to do with this and that’ I would have done something about it.”*

*(NSW Coronial inquest witness, SMH, 7/7/09)*

**From your interpretation of the above quote, together with your broader reading of the topic, analyse the challenges that professional engineers face in successfully communicating technical information to their peers, co-workers, clients and the community.**

#### Q.2 Leadership

**“For leaders to exist they must convince people of the correctness of their views, and for this to happen they need to be right most of the time. The conundrum for leaders is that in a rapidly changing world it is very difficult to interpret current events accurately, and hence chart a future course of action.”** (Currie, 2009.)

**Discuss this statement and discuss its implications for developing both successful leaders and effective members of the teams they lead.**