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Architectural Practice Examination Part 3: Examination by Interview Candidate briefing – Session 2, 2026

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Current at 13 October 2026

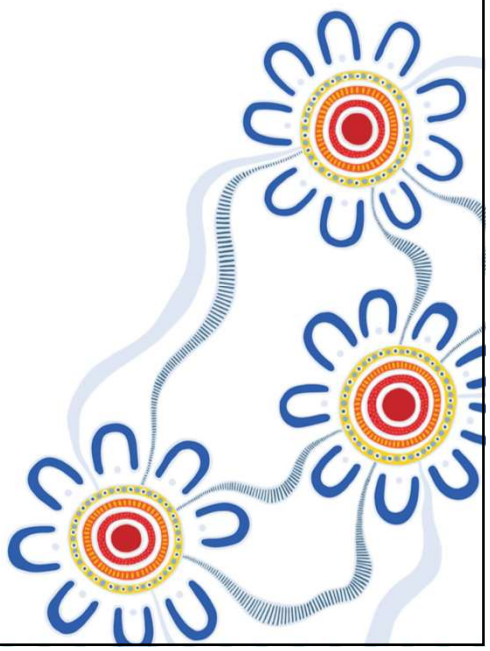
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Acknowledgement of Country

The NSW Architects Registration Board acknowledges, respects and values Aboriginal peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, walk and work. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future. We recognise and remain committed to honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships, and continuing connection to their lands, waters and seas. We acknowledge their history here on these lands and their rich contribution to our society.

We also acknowledge our Aboriginal employees who are an integral part of our diverse workforce, and recognise the knowledge embedded forever in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander custodianship of Country and cultures.

The 'Connecting Communities' artwork used here is by Alison Williams, proud Gumbaynggirr woman.



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Webinar Outline

1. Overview of the role of the NSW Architects Registration Board
2. APE Part 2: National Examination Paper
3. APE Part 3: Examination by Interview
4. Part 3 Assessment Rubric for NSW Candidates
5. Tips for the interview
6. Mock interview
7. Questions

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Role of the NSW Architects Registration Board



The Hon. **Anoulack CHANTHIVONG**
Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading; Minister for Building

NSW Department of Customer Service

Regulation

NSW ARB
NSW Architects Registration Board

Building Commission NSW

NSW Government

Government | Industry

AIA Australian Institute of Architects
EmAGN
SONA

ACA Association of Consulting Architects

RAA Regional Architecture Association

Practice Networks
- ANSR
- BANG
- GreatWAN
- IWAN
- LOWAN
- SEA
- SPUN

Practice

Architecture profession

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APE PART 2:
NATIONAL EXAMINATION PAPER

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APE Part 2: National Examination Paper

AACA

Candidate Number:

Candidate Name:

National Examination Paper, April 2024

Dear

This letter contains information relating to your performance in the recent April 2024 National Examination.

This includes a summary of your overall result and how your result relates to the examination Scenarios and their related performance criteria. Please note that a full list of Performance Criteria tested in the National Examination Paper is listed at the end of this letter.

The number of Performance Criteria tested in each scenario varies.

For the examination your result is PASS

Your examination score was 78%

Performance Criteria in Examination

Performance Criteria		Included in Examination	% Correct
PC 1	Demonstrate understanding of the regulatory requirements and obligations pertaining to practice as an architect, including legislation, professional codes of conduct, and obligations for continuing professional development and professional indemnity insurance.	Yes	73
PC 2	Be able to identify practice resources and apply practice methods and quality assurance systems within an ethical practice management framework to comply with and facilitate efficient, consistent and timely delivery of architectural services.	Yes	50
PC 3	Demonstrate understanding of the principles of project planning, considering implications for Country, environmental sustainability, communities, stakeholders and project costs.	No	N/A
PC 4	Be able to apply principles of project and staff planning and resource costs to establish realistic and achievable timeframes.	No	N/A
PC 5	Demonstrate understanding of the essential elements of a client architect agreement across the range of procurement methods; and be able to explain appropriateness of different agreements in relation to scale and type of project, including alternatives for partial services and the engagement of secondary and sub-consultants.	Yes	81
PC 6	Demonstrate understanding of appropriate processes for reporting and varying the scope of services provided by an architect.	Yes	78
PC 7	Apply and follow processes for clear and consistent communication with clients and relevant stakeholders throughout the project, including obtaining approvals from clients and stakeholders.	Yes	88
PC 8	Be able to implement culturally responsive and meaningful engagement processes that respect the importance of Country and reciprocal relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples across architectural services.	Yes	75
PC 9	Demonstrate understanding of contemporary and emerging building procurement methods. This involves identifying the most appropriate form of delivery for a project, including associated risks, mitigation and adaptation strategies, and integrating appropriate construction contracts and consultancy contracts and/or agreements.	Yes	88

You will receive feedback with your APE Part 2 results
The assessors will refer to this feedback when planning how to structure your interview

Your NEP report will be broken down PC by PC, showing whether

- **that PC was included in the examination, and**
- **the % of correct answers relevant to that PC.**

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APE PART 3:
EXAMINATION BY INTERVIEW

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APE Part 3: Examination By Interview

Part 3 applications are open from **Friday, 16 October** and close at **11:59pm, Friday, 30 October 2026**
If you wish to sit the interview this session, you must apply during the 2-week application window

- **Interviews will be held in November 2026** and will run until all candidates have been interviewed
- You can choose your preferred interview timeslot
- Plan to take the whole day off work and don't be in a rush on the day – allow enough time to arrive at the NSW ARB well before your interview is due to start so that you are as relaxed as possible
- Don't forget your rights under the Architects Award 2020 to take leave from work to attend the interview

Fair Work OMBUDSMAN

MA000079

Architects Award 2020

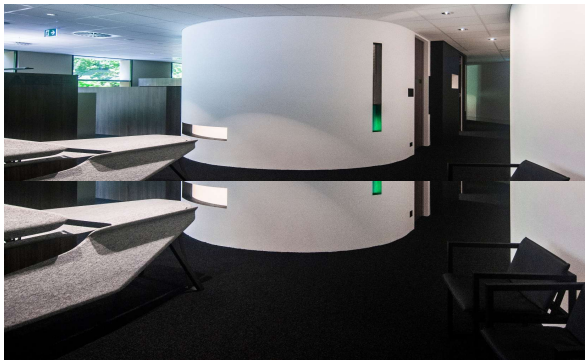
13.6 Student or graduate study leave

(a) A Graduate of Architecture must after due notification to the employer be allowed leave of absence with pay to attend courses, study for and attend the Architectural Practice Examination (APE) which comply with the Architects Registration Board's Requirements. The duration of which is not to exceed 4 days maximum time for study and attendance at written and/or interview based examinations for each APE examination period for which they present.

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APE Part 3: Examination By Interview

Interviews will be conducted in person at the NSW Architects Registration Board
Level 2, 156 Gloucester Street, The Rocks (near Wynyard Station)



Make yourself known at reception when you arrive and show your ID

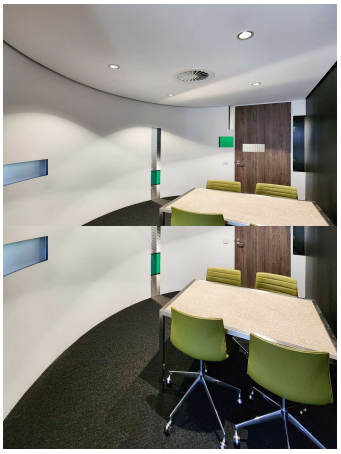
- You cannot take anything into the interview room – leave bags and other items with staff at reception
- Take a seat, have a drink of water, and try to relax
- Talk to the other candidates sitting next to you to loosen up
- Admire the office fitout by Harry Seidler & Associates…

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APE Part 3: Examination By Interview

Interviews will be conducted in person at the NSW Architects Registration Board



There will be 3 interview rooms running in parallel.
One of your assessors will take you to your interview room

- No personal notes or other reference material (hardcopy or electronic) are to be consulted during the interview
- Bags, phones, smart watches and other devices may not be taken into the interview room – leave with staff at reception
- At least one of your assessors will be taking notes – pay no attention to this and focus on answering the questions to the best of your ability

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APE Part 3: Examination By Interview

What to expect in the interview

- Conducted by 2 assessors, each of whom has at least 5 years practice experience as a registered architect
- Runs for between 45 minutes - 1 hour duration
- Purpose is to provide your assessors with an overview of your experience and your ability to deal with practice issues



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APE Part 3: Examination By Interview

Content of the interview

Your assessors are given your **Document 1** plus your **APE Part 2 results**

The Part 3 interview will draw content from multiple sources to test across the breadth of the 48 relevant Performance Criteria from the 2021 NSCA:

- Your Logbook
- Your Statement of Practical Experience (SoPE)
- Your results from the Part 2 National Examination Paper (NEP)
- Performance Criteria that are exclusively assessable in Part 3
- Areas of risk identified by the architect registration boards nationally

Assessors will usually include some hypothetical scenarios.

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APE Part 3: Examination By Interview

How will your assessors structure the interview?

- Every interview is different because it draws on content unique to your personal experience, strengths and weaknesses
- Assessors will structure the interview to test your knowledge and understanding, as well as your applied problem solving and interpersonal skills in a professional context

- **Knowledge and understanding:**
  You will be asked probing questions to measure your understanding of facts, concepts, principles and procedures that underlie professional practice
- **Applied problem solving:**
  You may be asked a series of related questions to test your ability to apply your theoretical knowledge to a practice-based scenario(s)
- **Interpersonal skills:**
  Your communication and people skills necessary to support professionalism in your work will also be observed

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APE Part 3: Examination By Interview

What are your assessors looking for?

The assessors will ask questions to draw out your experience and to confirm whether, on balance, you have demonstrated that you possess the technical knowledge and skills, and professional application of these skills in architectural practice, to be able to perform to the standard expected of an architect in Australia

You will be asked questions to confirm whether

- your work experience has allowed you to develop experience and skills against the required Performance Criteria
- there are any weaknesses in your knowledge of the facts
- you can apply your knowledge to a practical situation(s)
- you can demonstrate the communication and interpersonal skills necessary for professional practice

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APE Part 3: Examination By Interview

NSW ARB expectations of APE assessors

Your assessors must

- Conduct an interview that covers the range of expected skills, knowledge and behaviours as defined by the 2021 NSCA

and

- Use the *Part 3 Assessment Rubric for NSW Candidates* to structure the interview and determine the interview outcome

The Rubric supports a criteria-referenced process for assessing candidates against the relevant PCs for the 2021 NSCA and the determination of an interview outcome that is defensible and evidence-based

All 7 Topics in the Rubric must be covered by your assessors during the interview

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PART 3 ASSESSMENT RUBRIC FOR NSW CANDIDATES

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Part 3 Assessment Rubric for NSW Candidates

Your assessors will be using an assessment rubric to support a defensible assessment decision

The NSW assessment rubric has the following features:

- Thematic clustering of PCs into 7 Topics making it easier to cover the breadth of 48 PCs duing the 1-hour interview
- Expectations of performance are explicit and drawn from the *2021 NSCA Explanatory Notes and Definitions*, individual PCs (where no explanatory note exists), and learning outcomes in the *APE Support Material*
- The threshold for marking a candidate as a FAIL is clearly defined
  - To PASS, you MUST BE marked SATISFACTORY for all 7 Topics
  - The threshold for a candidate being NOT SATISFACTORY in a Topic is established by the number of not satisfactory PCs
- The assessment rubric will form the basis of NSW ARB feedback to unsuccessful candidates in the results letter sent to them, assisting them to improve and eventually reach their goals

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Part 3 Assessment Rubric for NSW Candidates

Your assessors will determine the interview outcome after you leave the room at the end



APE Part 3 Assessment Rubric for NSW Candidates

Candidate name: _____

Interview DATE:	Interview START:	FINISH:
Summary comments on the candidate's performance at interview: * comments must be provided if the candidate is a FAIL		
Final result ☐ PASS* ☐ FAIL * In order to PASS, the candidate must be marked SATISFACTORY for all 7 Topics		
Assessor 1	Name	Signature
Assessor 2	Name	Signature

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Part 3 Assessment Rubric for NSW Candidates

At the end of the interview, the assessors will



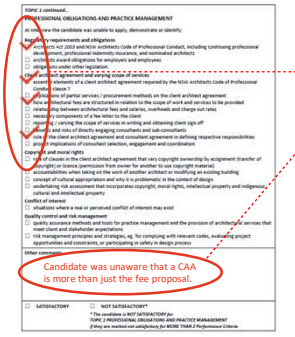
- **Determine individual PCs that were NOT SATISFACTORY during the interview**

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Part 3 Assessment Rubric for NSW Candidates

At the end of the interview, the assessors will



- **Identify relevant competency content that supports any NOT SATISFACTORY PCs they have determined**
- They may also include commentary where appropriate
  - The NSW ARB feedback letter to unsuccessful candidates will list the PCs for which the candidate was found "Not Satisfactory"
  - This will be supplemented by the relevant competency content that the assessors identified as not demonstrated by the candidate
  - The feedback to unsuccessful candidates may also include commentary made by assessors in their "Other comments" where relevant

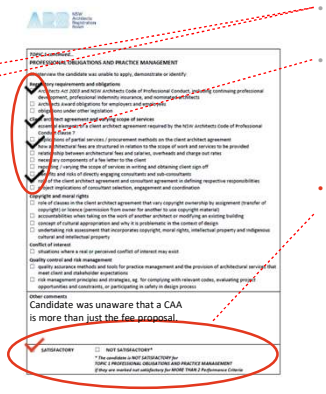
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Part 3 Assessment Rubric for NSW Candidates

At the end of the interview, the assessors will





- Determine individual PCs that were NOT SATISFACTORY during the interview
- Identify relevant competency content that supports the NOT SATISFACTORY PCs they have determined
- **Determine whether the candidate is SATISFACTORY or NOT SATISFACTORY for each Topic based on the number of PCs marked Not Satisfactory**

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Part 3 Assessment Rubric for NSW Candidates

To Pass the Part 3 Interview overall, you must be marked SATISFACTORY for all 7 TOPICS

Whether you are SATISFACTORY or NOT SATISFACTORY for each Topic will be based on the number of PCs marked NOT SATISFACTORY, as follows

TOPIC 1 PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND PRACTICE MANAGEMENT
7 PCs in total – The candidate is **NOT SATISFACTORY for this Topic if MORE THAN 2 PCs** are marked not satisfactory

TOPIC 2 PROJECT COMMENCEMENT
12 PCs in total – The candidate is **NOT SATISFACTORY for this Topic if MORE THAN 3 PCs** are marked not satisfactory

TOPIC 3 COMMUNICATION
5 PCs in total – The candidate is **NOT SATISFACTORY for this Topic if MORE THAN 2 PCs** are marked not satisfactory

TOPIC 4 ENVIRONMENTAL
4 PCs in total – The candidate is **NOT SATISFACTORY for this Topic if MORE THAN 1 PC** is marked not satisfactory

TOPIC 5 DOCUMENTATION
12 PCs in total – The candidate is **NOT SATISFACTORY for this Topic if MORE THAN 3 PCs** are marked not satisfactory

TOPIC 6 PROCUREMENT
7 PCs in total – The candidate is **NOT SATISFACTORY for this Topic if MORE THAN 2 PCs** are marked not satisfactory

TOPIC 7 CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION
6 PCs in total – The candidate is **NOT SATISFACTORY for this Topic if MORE THAN 1 PC** is marked not satisfactory

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TIPS FOR THE INTERVIEW

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Tips for the interview

Preparation is key

- Refresh your memory of what you recorded in your **Logbook** and wrote in your **Statement of Practical Experience**
- Brush up on the **48 relevant PCs** from the 2021 NSCA
- 5 PCs are not assessed in any other part of the APE and are therefore highly likely to be assessed in the interview:

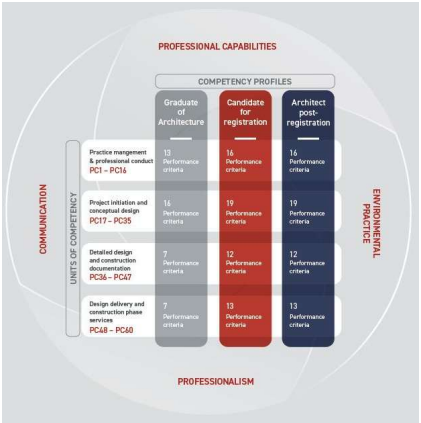
PC 3 Project planning
Demonstrate understanding of the principles of project planning, considering implications for Country, environmental sustainability, communities, stakeholders and project costs.

PC 8 First Nations engagement
Be able to implement culturally responsive and meaningful engagement processes that respect the importance of Country and reciprocal relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples across architectural services.

PC 10 Environmental responsibilities – whole life carbon
Demonstrate understanding of the whole life carbon implications of procurement methods, materials, components and construction systems.

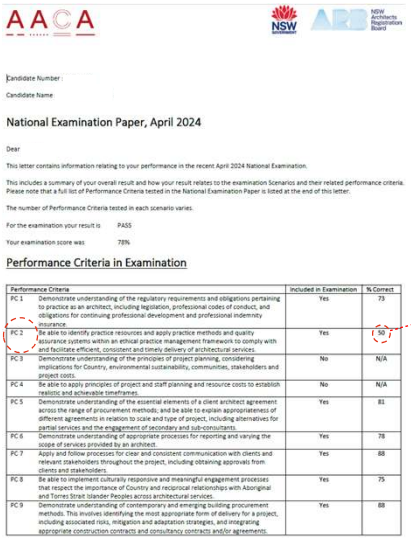
PC 34 Communication with stakeholders
Communicate conceptual design proposals and associated information to clients, stakeholders and communities using appropriate and culturally responsive methods appropriate to different audiences.

PC 50 First Nations engagement
Be able to continue engagement with relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples throughout all stages of the project and its delivery in a meaningful, respectful and appropriate way.



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Tips for the interview



Candidate Number :

Candidate Name :

National Examination Paper, April 2024

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PC 7	Apply and follow processes for clear and consistent communication with clients and relevant stakeholders throughout the project, including obtaining approvals from clients and stakeholders.	Yes	88
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PC 9	Demonstrate understanding of contemporary and emerging building procurement methods. This involves identifying the most appropriate form of delivery for a project, including associated risks, mitigation and adaptation strategies, and integrating appropriate construction contracts and consultancy contracts and/or agreements.	Yes	88

Preparation is key – carefully review your NEP report to confirm any weakness

The assessors will refer to your NEP report when planning how to structure your interview

- The PCs that were least successfully answered in the NEP may be tested again in the Part 3 Interview
- Review your NEP report to confirm if there are weaknesses in
  - your knowledge of the facts
  - your ability to apply facts to a practical situation
  - your capacity to communicate effectively in a professional scenario

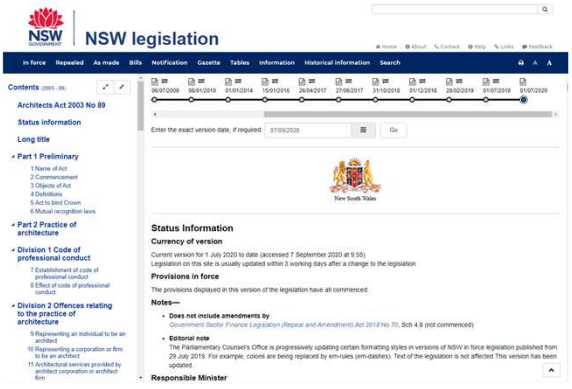
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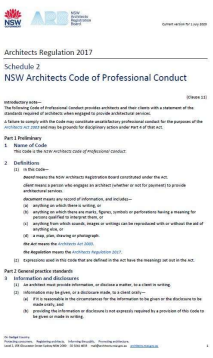
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Tips for the interview

Preparation is key

- Brush up on the ***Architects Act 2003*** and **NSW Architects Code of Professional Conduct**





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Tips for the interview

Preparation is key

The architect registration boards have previously identified certain knowledge areas as presenting a high risk to consumers of architectural services nationally

Common areas of weakness:

- **Evaluation and integration of regulatory requirements**
- Application of **principles controlling planning, development and design for the project site**
- **Building Codes and Standards**, particularly core National Construction Code (NCC) requirements and selection/specification of materials
- **Provision of cost information, implementation of cost controls and budget management**
- **Contract Administration**, particularly certification of monetary claims, variations, Practical Completion, extensions of time, defects and rectification of these during the construction period, and other administrative responsibilities under the contract
- **Procurement methods** – identification and assessment of relevance and application to the project
- Architects' **liability arising from secondary consultants**
- **Copyright**
- **Client Architect agreements and termination**

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Tips for the interview

On the day of the interview

- Try not to be nervous – this is a rare opportunity to talk about the depth of your experience with other architects who are genuinely interested
- Keep referring to your projects in your answers to the assessors' questions
- Remember that the assessors are not trying to "catch you out" – they want you to do well at interview
- You are not expected to "know everything" – you should demonstrate that you also know where to look for information / find answers if you don't know
- Expect to be thrown a few hypothetical scenarios – for example, if you have predominantly worked on multi-storey commercial buildings, you might be asked about a project at a different scale such as a small public building or a house
- You should be able to demonstrate transferability of skills to other scales of practice

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Tips for the interview

When will you receive the interview result?
What happens if you Fail?

- You should receive the result of your interview within 3 business days
- Do not ask your assessors for the result – they are not allowed to tell you on the spot
- If you are found not to have met the required standard, you will be provided with feedback that will assist you to improve and hopefully pass the interview next time
- You can apply to re-sit the APE Part 3 interview in the next session, if eligible
- You have up to 2 years to complete the Part 3 Interview from the date you were notified of your success in Part 2
- When applying to re-sit the APE Part 3 you must submit an updated Logbook, a revised Statement of Practical Experience and a new NSW Statutory Declaration attesting to the accuracy of the documentation submitted

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MOCK INTERVIEW

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Questions?

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