

Adjunct Associate Professor Don White

Faculty of Engineering

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Key Skills and Experience

The Engineering Faculty appointed Don White as an Adjunct A/Professor in 2003. In this role he is engaged in passing on professional knowledge and experience to postgraduates and students, primarily in their final year before graduation. This currently includes

- Major Design project in Chemical Engineering
- Professional Engineering and Project Management components of several courses
- Design project for Advanced Students
- Supervision of undergraduate thesis projects in Chemical Engineering.
- Case study component of the MIPPS course - Chemical Engineering

Don has over thirty years' experience as a manager and engineer and in manufacturing and engineering for the process and chemical industries. His Career has been largely with ICI, later Orica (and now Qenos) and more recently as a Consulting Engineer.

He has managed large petrochemical and Chlor-alkalai plants and been responsible for the supply of Engineering Services. Particular highlights include:

- Specification for a new ethylene plant (\$198 million) and
- Feasibility study for a replacement chlorine plant (\$60 million),
- Management of a major Ferric Chloride initiative.

- Construction and commissioning management of a \$36 million Ethylene Plant upgrade (part of a \$280m project)
- Construction management of a \$20 million upgrade of a Surfactants Plant.
- Commissioning Manager for the Australian Magnesium Corporation in Gladstone, Qld, for their \$48 million demonstration plant and later provided consulting services for the \$1,000 million magnesium plant during its design stage.

Don left Orica in 1998 and then consulted to the Petrochemical, Chlor-alkalai, Chemical and Magnesium metal industries. Assignments included

- Review of the operations of an Ammonium Nitrate facility for a consortium of financiers.
- Survey of chlor-alkalai and plastics plants operations in Indonesia
- Review of the safety of operations of a Chemical Manufacturing plant
- Advice to Lawyers and an International Engineering Contracting firm on opportunities to defend a claim against them.

Don has considerable interests in Sustainability, Conservation and local government issues which are now a main focus of his activities. Many of these activities are integrated with his University activities, through thesis topic and teaching. Particular roles include

- Nature Conservation Council of NSW (the peak group for Non-government conservation groups) –Chairperson (since 2006)
- Local Resident Group, Woollahra – Coordinator and involved with many local committees
- Rural Fire Service - Volunteer Fire-fighter and Publicity officer - Laguna Brigade, Hunter Valley,

Don sits on a number of Government advisory panels including

- Board member - Environmental Protection Authority NSW (EPA)
- Load-Based Licensing Technical Review Panel (NSW Department of Environment and Conservation)

Thursday, 21 February 2008