

Whose job is it?

Date: As at July 2010

Name: Ray Hezkial

Job title: Project Manager – Enlarged Cotter Dam

Professional qualification:

- Bachelor of Engineering (Civil)
- Diploma in Project Management
- Numerous professional development courses
- Over 16 years of civil construction, design and operations management experience

What do you do in your job on the Enlarged Cotter Dam project?

My primary responsibility is to act as ACTEW's key representative on the project ensuring time, quality and cost targets are met. I also directly manage aspects of construction that are high risk such as precinct mitigation works and provision of artificial habitat for fish within the Cotter Reservoir.

How did you get involved in your job?

Civil engineering is a diverse field, I began in a design role and through the years have had a transition to construction and project management. The last 10 years of my career have been specialised in water and sewerage infrastructure, so progression to the dam project allows me to use these skills as well as construction and design management skills.

If a student were interested in doing what you do, how could they get involved?

If you'd like to become an engineer, it would help to be interested in maths and science but you don't need to be an engineer to be involved in the construction industry. There are many trade opportunities available through the Canberra Institute of Technology and even machine operators for things such as excavators and trucks. There are also other professions through university such as geologists, surveyors, environmental engineers and much more. It takes a team of professionals from a diverse range of backgrounds to build a dam so there are many ways to get involved.

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Can you give some examples of where else you can do your job?

Many of the skills you acquire as an engineer can be used in other jobs which have no technical requirements, basically any job that has multiple tasks in a complex environment can be handled by an engineer. Some examples of other jobs I have undertaken in my career include:

- Upgrading a water treatment plant
- Designing constructing new roads and highways
- Building a skate park
- Building pump stations
- Supervision of building construction
- Building and designing stormwater systems
- Flood levee banks and
- Public park and street-scape renovations.

In general, civil engineers are required in almost every industry that requires any form of built infrastructure.

