

MEDIA RELEASE

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Peak electrical body welcomes decision on foil insulation



Master Electricians Australia has welcomed today's announcement by the Federal Government that it will withdraw the insulation rebate for foil products held in place with staples or other metal fasteners.

Master Electricians CEO Malcolm Richards said the decision significantly reduces the risk of death or serious injury as a result of laying metal-based insulation products over electrical cables.

The decision to withdraw the rebate when metal fasteners are used followed discussions between Master Electricians, the Federal Government and the insulation industry in Canberra last week.

State regulatory bodies have also issued advice banning the use of metal fasteners, even where work is not associated with the Federal Government's rebate program.

"This is a very good outcome, and it will significantly reduce the risk of death or serious injury associated with installing this type of product," Mr Richards said.

"We thank the government and Mr Garrett for taking our concerns seriously and responding to them so quickly."

Mr Richards said Master Electricians also supported the commitment from the Government that it would require covers to be placed over light fittings when any type of insulation was being installed.

"This decision by the Minister will cut the chances of fires starting in roof spaces due to insulation being fitted too close to electrical fittings. It will mean that use of this product under the national rebate scheme will now exceed the national standard for electrical safety."

Mr Richards urged homeowners who have had foil-type insulation products installed in their roofs to call a Master Electrician or licensed electrical contractor to check the work.

"Under no circumstances should home owners go into the roof space themselves. There is a very real risk of injury or death if this foil is touching an electrical fitting. Don't risk your safety – have it checked by an expert."

Malcolm Richards is available for interviews.

For more information contact David Melloy, Executive Manager Marketing on 1300 889 198.