Extension of Trade Licensing

ACT

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MASTER ELECTRICIANS AUSTRALIA

Master Electricians Australia (MEA) is a peak industry association representing electrical contractors across Australia, majority of which are small and medium sized businesses. We are recognised by industry, government and the community as a leading business partner, knowledge source and advocate. You can visit our website at www.masterelectricians.com.au

MEA welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the ACT Government's proposal to extend occupational licensing to additional trades.

While this consultation does not impact unrestricted electrical licences, MEA provides feedback on the proposed introduction of licensing for the fire protection trade, particularly where tasks intersect with competencies already held by licensed electricians in relation to installation work.

MEA also notes that while the proposed fire protection practitioner scope focuses on design and installation, our submission extends to consider inspection and testing activities, noting that these elements are currently under review in other jurisdictions for electrical fire safety systems.

Fire Protection

MEA notes that the proposed scope for fire protection practitioners includes the installation of fire safety systems, in particular "fire detection systems – installing smoke, heat, and flame detection devices."

The installation, maintenance, inspection, and testing of electrical smoke alarms are already well-established components within the scope of electrical licensing. Licensed electricians are appropriately trained and competent to undertake this work safely and in accordance with relevant standards. As such, it would be an unnecessary imposition to require additional permits, accreditations, licences, or qualifications for electricians to carry out the installation, testing, or inspection of this equipment.

MEA therefore contends that any occupational licensing framework introduced for fire protection practitioners should explicitly exclude licensed electrical workers, and that they should not be required to undertake any additional accreditation.

Any framework that restricts this would create unnecessary administrative burden, duplicate existing regulatory requirements, and hinder the efficient and safe delivery of electrical services.

We note that where fire safety systems operate at Extra Low Voltage (ELV), the task can be performed by other trained practitioners.