



delivering tomorrow today

The Hon. Michael O'Brien  
Treasurer  
Level 4, 1 Treasury Place  
MELBOURNE, 3000

Dear Mr O'Brien

**National licensing proposal a threat to electrical safety**

In what has the potential to be another pink batts insulation debacle, the Federal government's national licensing proposal for the electrical trades ignores the electrical safety of Australian households and businesses and Australian workers.

As registered electrical contractors and licensed electricians we are totally opposed to the model proposed as, under the guise of national licensing, it totally undermines the electrical trade and will result in lower levels of safety and technical expertise. This in turn will increase the risks of accidents and deaths in Australian homes and workplaces.

The proposal is not just a "race to the bottom" or adoption of the lowest common denominator, rather it will gut and deskill the trade – a significant amount of work which currently can only be done by licensed electricians, will no longer be licensed work and will be able to be done by anyone.

The effects on training and electrical apprenticeships will be significant. Far fewer apprenticeships will be offered, there will be less incentive for apprentices to complete their apprenticeships and the skills base of the industry will decline. The proposal will undermine the skilled flexible workforce that the industry and the economy require.

This has all the signs of the pink batts debacle, where government ignored the advice of industry.

**Don't let Victoria sacrifice its high electrical safety standards**

The proposal is currently the subject of consultation between all state and territory governments and stakeholders. A final decision will be made by the Standing Committee for Federal Financial Relations (a COAG ministerial committee) around November of this year.

As Treasurer, you are the responsible Victorian Government minister on this issue.

We urge you in the strongest terms to reject this proposal. Victorian's electrical safety system is at risk.

I would be more than happy to discuss this matter further with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Burns", is written over a blue scribble.

Peter Burns  
Chief Operations Manager