

A word from the CEO

By the time you read this issue of *Electrical Connection* the Federal election will be behind us, the UK has voted to leave the European Union and the race for the White House will be well under way. So change is certainly in the air as I write this update.

Key to us at NECA is that our policy issues remain top of mind when our politicians return to Canberra in July, post-election. We have used this opportunity to remind all major parties that we have updated our policies to reflect the current issues our industry is facing. (Please see the story on the following page which lists both the existing policies and the additional policies we have added to the 2016 summary – which you can also find on our website under Advocacy.)

As we move into the new financial year there is another landmark we are celebrating. It's 100 years now since the first NECA entity opened its doors to members, in Victoria. The following year, 1917, our first President was appointed. As a result we are celebrating our centenary over the financial year 2016/17.



We kick-off the party at our Excellence Awards in Melbourne – which is always the first of the state- and territory-based events, and plan to conclude things with a President's dinner at our industry conference in 2017 – in Australia this time, given this landmark event in our history.

On the topic of industry conferences, the 2016 conference in Stellenbosch, South Africa, in April of this year was a huge

success. We had 260 delegates and a very full agenda. Our two keynote speakers – Glenn Platt from CSIRO and Martin van Rensburg from CISCO both gave thought-provoking presentations on the challenges the industry is facing. Particularly with respect to innovation. And the closing presentation from local TV personality, and medical doctor, Michael Mol left everyone feeling totally committed to achieving a better work/life balance.

The selection of photos in this update will give you a taste of the fun had by all!

In September we will be kicking-off the next Market Monitor industry research. Given the success of the 2015 study, this will once again be available to everyone in the industry and conducted exclusively online.

And so, as we head into the final quarter of what has definitely been an interesting year for us at NECA, I wish you well.

Best regards,

Suresh Manickam ■

A new industry information portal

CSIRO recently announced its acquisition of the Centre for Liveability Real Estate and the intellectual property for its sustainability framework from the Hooker Corporation. The Banksia Award-winning platform was developed in collaboration with sustainable design and construction industries and provides training, research, strategy and communication services to the residential real estate industry. NECA is one of the founding content partners.

The site helps real estate agents to promote properties with the potential for reduced running costs and increased comfort in a way that is more easily recognised at point of sale or rent. While

buyers, or tenants, can easily see if a residence has enough bedrooms and/or a well-designed kitchen, it's not as easy to determine if it will be warm in winter, cheap to run, or if it has a large impact on the environment. Liveability aims to bring these features to the forefront of any real estate transaction and potentially influence property values.

"It's all about delivering a better experience for buyers, sellers, tenants and investors by empowering them to find or create their 'best home': healthy, efficient, comfortable and connected to their community," adds NECA CEO Suresh Manickam.

Liveability adds to CSIRO's existing research in residential energy efficiency and aligns with its wider climate change mitigation work. Their work in this area is

enhancing sustainability awareness within the 9.6 million Australian residences that are responsible for approximately 11% of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions.

"CSIRO is at the forefront of research into our impact on the planet and what we can do to live more sustainably – through Liveability, it's possible to identify the best ways to be eco-friendly and be comfortable in our homes," CSIRO research director Dr Stephen White says.

For more information check out the NECA website Consumer section. ■



NECA 2016 INDUSTRY CONFERENCE, SOUTH AFRICA



African dancers welcome our guests.



Dave & Cindy McInnes.



Dr Michael Mol.



The partners' panel (Gerard Lighting & Clipsal) with CSIRO's Glenn Platt (left).



The drums night.



The entertainers.



The gala dinner.



The partners' panel (NHP & L&H) with CISCO's Martin Janse van Rensburg.

NECA Policies 2016

As the peak industry voice for Australia's electrical and communications sector that employs 145,000 workers and delivers an annual turnover in excess of \$23 billion, the National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) continues to engage with our key stakeholders, to identify key policy positions across a range of industry forums.

In this context, our 2016 Policy Statement has built upon our organisation's first document in 2015, having been formulated as a result of an internal process of engagement with NECA members, state chapters and councillors.

This year's statement outlines 12 key policy themes and makes 42 specific policy

recommendations, building upon 2015 by adding five new policy themes following the ratification and adoption by NECA's National Executive in November 2015. These five new themes are:

- Renewable Energy;
- Security of Payments;
- Building & Contents Insurance;
- Home Safety and Energy Audits; and,
- Competency Based Wage Progression

These themes reinforce key topics from our original statement including national licensing, the reform of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector, support for small business including company tax reductions and enhanced product quality assurance.

If actioned by Government, NECA strongly believes these recommendations will deliver a more prosperous and effective electrical contracting sector through the creation of new employment opportunities, increased safety and compliance standards and a boost in growth for our national economy.

We clearly hold the view that the ongoing advocacy of the electrical contracting sector, through discussions with Parliamentary representatives and the submitting of policy options to parliamentary inquiries and departmental workforces and forums are critical to effecting positive change for our industry.

For more information visit the Advocacy area on our website.



Industry profile

Australia's electrical contracting industry accumulates an estimated annual turnover in excess of \$23 billion and in many ways, is a measurement yardstick for the performance of Australia's economy.

In 2015, the largest source of revenue continues to be derived through the ongoing maintenance of residential and

commercial property (34%), followed by new premises (20%). Revenue derived from renovation and refurbishment of property (16%) has overtaken new infrastructure (14%) over the past two years.

Revenue from commercial projects is the main source for businesses with six or

more employees, whilst a mix of revenue sources is the main stay of businesses with less than five employees.

Over the past two years, many businesses have experienced a rise in costs. However, significantly, the serious cost pressures over the last four years have appeared to have eased.

Celebrating 100 years and beyond...

Over the next 12 months we will be celebrating our centenary. Our first chapter opened its doors to members in 1916, in Victoria. And the first President was appointed in 1917. Over the next two decades we opened our doors to members in all states and territories across Australia.

Our celebrations officially kick-off on 1 July – as we head into a new financial year, and the first major event will be the Victorian Excellence Awards.

The story of NECA's evolution has been captured in a wonderful book written by Brian Seymour – a NECA Life Member, and prolific writer on industry developments. It charts our history and reminds us of just how much has changed over the past century. We are very proud of our history and our contribution to the industry. And we look forward to the next 100 years with great anticipation.

We hope you will join us in our celebrations over the next 12 months – which will culminate with our 2017 Industry Conference Gala Dinner.

To find out more visit www.neca.asn.au/100years

NECA ACT
Ph: (02) 6280 5580

NECA QLD
Ph: 07 3276 7950

NECA TAS
Ph: (03) 6234 3464

NECA WA
Ph: (08) 6241 6100

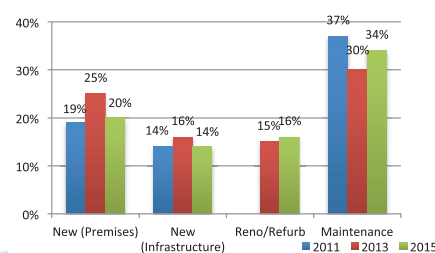
NECA NSW
Ph: (02) 9744 1099

NECA SA/NT
Ph: (08) 8272 2966

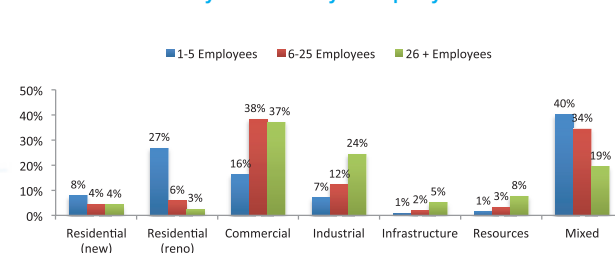
NECA VIC
Ph: (03) 9645 5533

NECA NATIONAL
Ph: (02) 9439 8523

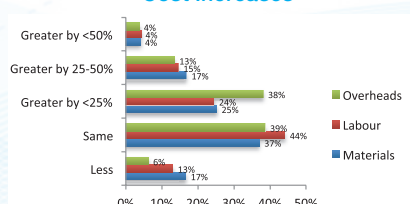
Source of Revenue >50%



Primary Revenue by Company Size



Cost Increases



% same or less cost comparison

