

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **NECA calls for state governments to give businesses a ‘hand up, not a hand out’ by abolishing payroll tax**

The National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) again calls on all state governments to immediately abolish payroll tax for all small and medium businesses to help combat the continued economic turmoil caused by COVID-19.

**Suresh Manickam, CEO of NECA, said:**

*“NECA calls on all state governments to back local businesses by urgently removing payroll tax.*

*“We are not asking for a handout, we are asking for a hand up, in what are extraordinary times. Payroll tax is a both a disincentive to employment and a barrier to economic growth. Now more than ever we need to consider all avenues to build confidence in the economy, encourage small and medium enterprises to create additional opportunities for work.*

*“The abolition of payroll tax by any state government would be a bold move that would send a very clear message to the rest of the country and our overseas trading partners that the state is providing a distinct advantage for business”.*

NECA has long called for Governments around Australia to recognise the importance of payroll tax relief, which is also reflected in the Henry Tax Review recommendations.

**ENDS**

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**Notes for editors**

1. NECA is the peak industry body representing the interests of electrical and communications contractors Australia-wide.
2. Membership comprises approximately 5,400 electrical contractors, employing in excess of 60,000 employees Australia wide.
3. NECA provides employment and ongoing skills development for over 4,500 apprentices Australia wide.
4. A selection of high-resolution electrical contractor and apprentice insitu images compliant to Standard AS/NZS 4836:2011 are available free by visiting the [NECA image library](#).