

Media Release

NECA industry survey reveals need for regulatory reform alongside stimulus

The National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) today published the findings of its industry survey revealing electrical contractors face a long road to recovery and government stimulus should be backed up by regulatory reforms.

NECA surveyed 377 representatives of the electrical and communications industry from across Australia, finding more than half of businesses in September 2020 have reduced employee hours to buffer the impact of COVID-19 and nearly three in four are accessing JobKeeper payments.

Opportunities for future work remain slim, with 64% of respondents saying there are fewer tender opportunities identified by businesses in September 2020, as compared to the previous year.

To address these challenges, 58% of respondents believe investment in infrastructure and construction is required to stimulate the economy but any stimulus must be supported by regulatory reform.

Oliver Judd, Executive Director and NECA spokesperson said:

“Our survey is further indication that we are not yet out the woods and businesses face a long road to recovery. The Federal Budget provided extensive stimulus that should reach the electrical contracting industry and the JobKeeper scheme is doing exactly what it was intended to do; helping businesses make it through the tough times and protecting jobs.

“What our members also want to see is regulatory reform as there is growing uncertainty that they will get paid for work underway or already completed. This means adoption of a uniformed approach to Security of Payment laws and introduction of Unfair Contracts legislation.”

NECA’s full survey can be seen [here](#).

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