



national
electrical and
communications
association

Annual Review 2019

ADELAIDE BOTANIC HIGH SCHOOL

*Front cover image:
Winner of the Commercial Medium Category
2019 NECA National Excellence Awards
NSG BOFFA SA: Adelaide Botanic High School*

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About NECA

The National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) is the peak industry body for Australia's electrical and communications contracting industry, which employs more than 165,000 workers and delivers an annual turnover in excess of \$23 billion.

NECA represents the best interests of over 5,255 electrical contracting businesses across all Australian States and Territories.

NECA has been advocating for, and on behalf of, the electrotechnology industry for over 100 years. We aim to help our members and the wider industry to operate and manage their business more effectively and efficiently while representing their interests to Federal and State Governments, regulators and principal industry bodies such as the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) and Standards Australia.

NECA is strongly committed to supporting the next generation of electrical and communications contractors. Working with our partner Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) and Group Training Organisations (GTOs), NECA provides employment and ongoing skills development for approximately 4,800 apprentices across Australia. The majority of these apprentices get the opportunity to gain work experience with NECA's members through our group schemes.

Our training arm delivers training options for an additional 4,000 qualified electricians across the industry, providing technical advice and business skills training along with business development and marketing training for managers.

NECA also manages and promotes the industry wide annual Excellence and Apprentice Awards, a scholarship program, the NECA Foundation and the Alternative Pathways Project.

The Australian Cabler Registration Service (ACRS) is a wholly owned and operated subsidiary of NECA, licensed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). ACRS is the second largest Registrar of Cablers in Australia.

NECA has been advocating for, and on behalf of, the Electrotechnology industry for over 100 years.

President's Report

I am proud to share that for over a century, members remain at the heart of everything we do at NECA.



Bruce Duff
President, NECA

Importantly, we continue to represent the interests of all electrical and communications contracting professionals across Australia.

The past 12 months have been both productive and rewarding for NECA.

Nationally, we now exceed 5,200 members. Financially, NECA remains sustainable and we continue to work hard to ensure our members' assets are well managed and continue to grow. We also provide a range of industry related business services, product offerings and member benefits.

On behalf of our membership, we continue to proactively advocate and engage with Federal and State Governments, policy-makers and regulators. The top three issues that we continue to represent our members to Government on include non-compliant building products, Security of Payments laws, and Vocational Education and Training (VET).

NECA is strongly committed to and supports new opportunities to attract the next generation of electrical contractors. We are now responsible for the employment, training and skilling of more than 4,800 current and future electricians and contractors through our various training and educational programs. We have maintained over 90% completion rates across our training facilities.

Pleasingly, there has been a positive reaction to the relaunch of the NECA Foundation – both by way of those who are keen to donate to this worthy institution - as well as applications for those seeking to utilise the post trade training on offer.

NECA also achieved a significant milestone this year with our constitution being endorsed by NECA's Executive. The changes introduce a streamlined, modernised and transparent set of rules to lead NECA into its second century. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the development of the rules, including our CEO Suresh Manickam who has been intimately involved with this project for several years.

The commitment and loyalty of all our industry business partners is highly commendable and invaluable to NECA and our sector. We are grateful for their continued support, and I thank you all.

I'd also like to thank all of my fellow Councillors for their ongoing voluntary contributions, as well as the staff in our various entities for their commitment to NECA and the broader industry.

Finally, I would like to recognise and thank Greg Hodby in his role as Acting President and for his hard work, dedication and leadership throughout 2019.

I am honoured to have been elected as National President, and I look forward to representing NECA and continuing to drive growth and sustainability in the year ahead.

Bruce Duff
President, NECA

CEO's Report

A new energy is building in the electrotechnology sector. As technologies have evolved, so too has the electrical and communications industry to meet these changes head on.



Suresh Manickam
CEO, NECA

Year on year, we see our members push the boundaries of what is possible in solar, battery storage and renewables as well as data communications, IoT and automation.

As we close out the decade and look forward to 2020, we see our industry remaining strong, yet flexible, and importantly, resilient in the face of constant government, regulatory, economic and technological change.

I would firstly like to thank our members who have volunteered their time and resources to NECA, as well as to all our dedicated staff across the country. I would also like to recognise and thank our dedicated sponsors. The commitment and loyalty of all our industry business partners is invaluable to NECA and our sector, and we are grateful for their continued support and I thank you all.

2019 highlights to be proud of include:

- NECA continues to strengthen its presence across the country with more than 60 employees in our Chapter offices. This does not include those working in the various GTOs, RTOs and controlled entities, which would be at least the same number again. NECA and its entities now have considerable assets which exist for the benefit of members and the industry.

- NECA trains approximately 4,000 apprentices through our RTOs and GTOs – a figure that as an industry, we should be proud of, but one that we are actively working to increase to support industry demand for skilled tradespeople.
- NECA Membership numbers now exceed 5255 – testament to our unwavering focus on member issues and improving our services.
- We had a number of successes engaging with media and key stakeholder including Federal and State Governments, policy-makers and regulators, on the foremost concerns affecting our members and industry.

In 2019 we continued to proactively advocate on behalf of members focusing on:

Non-Compliant Building Products – also known as the 'Cancer of the Construction Industry'.

This is a problem that has been allowed to fester by successive Federal and State Governments. We will continue to push government for an outcome on non-confirming building products including a uniform national approach, tough legislation and policing of Australian standards.

Non-conforming products threatens every consumer. The question we ask is 'What will it take for this to be a priority for Government?'

Security of Payments Laws – to ensure that contractors are no longer seen as de facto financiers for head contractors.

While we are seeing change on a state level, NECA is advocating for a national approach. With countless examples of builders going under due to no-fault of sub-contractors, protections and measures must be immediately introduced to limit any further detrimental impact to this sector.

NECA calls for levels of accountability, transparency and fairness that safeguard sub-contractors as recommended by the Murray Review, which NECA actively contributed to, now come to pass.

Vocational Education and Training – where we continue to actively promote the benefits of a career pathway in the trades.

We are starting to see the conversation on careers change, albeit slowly, at the highest levels of Government, with the Joyce Review mapping out a path for a top-down approach that will boost the status of VET education.

Initiatives such as establishing the National Careers Institute, which would provide better careers information to students and enable them to make informed decisions about their futures, are important steps to turning the tide.

Critically, alongside this, we need to see a bottom up change in attitudes that recognises the value of an apprenticeship to individuals and the broader economy. The consequences of not doing so are simply too great. Skills shortages across the Australian economy are reaching crisis point when we have more infrastructure planned than ever.

In line with our recommendations, NECA has been front and centre supporting Australia's training needs for the past two years through the Federal Government's Industry Specialist Mentoring for Australian Apprentices (ISMAA) program. The scheme has been designed to increase the retention rates of apprentices in the first two years of training, and as a result, improve completion rates and increase the supply of skilled workers in the Electrotechnology industry sector.

Through NECA's ISMAA program we have provided support for more than 3,500 apprentices across Australia achieving success rates of around 90% through regular one-to-one contact with industry mentors.

In 2019 NECA also partnered with State Governments including the Queensland Government to promote electrotechnology and electrical services careers to young people, focusing on the '*9 Key Reasons to Become an Electrician*'. Part of the Advancing Apprenticeships Fund, NECA's Program assessed young people's suitability for an electrical apprenticeship as well as offer real opportunities by connecting aspiring apprentices with contracting businesses.

This year, the outstanding work of NECA members was recognised at the industry's sell out National Excellence and Apprentice Awards held at the Howard Smith Wharves in Brisbane. We would like to thank the Hon. Steve Irons MP, Assistant Minister for Vocational Education, Training and Apprenticeships for sharing a personal account of his career as a tradie and the Government's vision for VET.

Also supporting members, our National Conference on Hamilton Island brought together 330 members and industry representatives. Thank you to everyone that attended - we hope to see even more members in 2020 when the NECA conference lands in Darwin.

NECA would in particular like to acknowledge the invaluable contribution our sponsors make to the Excellence Awards, National Conference and the electrotechnology industry as a whole. Thank you.

Finally, during 2019 NECA achieved a notable historic milestone with our National Council voting to introduce a streamlined, modernised and transparent set of rules. This positive change will position NECA well as we head into our second century. Thank everyone who has been involved in the development of the rules over the last two years. In particular, I'd like to acknowledge the late Alan Brown who was a champion of this project.

Suresh Manickam
CEO, NECA

Policy And Advocacy

As the leading voice in the electrotechnology industry, NECA is strongly committed to proactive and ongoing policy reform, research and advocacy on behalf of our members and the broader building and construction sector.

Throughout 2019, NECA made representations to all levels of Government, including elected Members of Parliament and Government agencies, across the country. We commenced working with the newly elected Federal Government, and several newly elected State Governments.

We continue to advocate evidence-based research cutting-edge policy and strategic initiatives to address key issues and priorities. Our influence and efforts are making a positive contribution that shapes policy reform and progressive change for Australia's electrical and communications contractors.

The prevailing themes across the Building and Construction sector during 2019 that NECA has been actively advocating on include:

- Non-compliant building products – also known as the cancer of the industry – improving quality and assurance across the sector
- Security of Payments laws – to ensure that contractors are no longer seen as de facto financiers for head contractors
- Vocational Education and Training – where we continue to promote the benefits of a career pathway in the trades and encourage a more diverse workforce
- Taxation reform and red-tape reduction to support small and family-owned businesses.



Government Submissions

NECA participates in a range of Government engagement processes as a means to articulate our policies that underpin our mission and purpose.

During 2019 we made submissions on a number of Government proposals, including:

- Federal Pre-budget submission
- ACT and Tasmania Pre-Budget submissions
- National Skills Commission and Skills Organisation Submission
- National Careers Institute Submission

- COAG Education Council – Review of Secondary Students Pathways
- NSW 'Building Stronger Foundations Discussion Paper' submission
- NSW 'Supporting the NSW Energy Sector' submission
- NSW Parliamentary Inquiry 'Regulation of building standards, building quality and building disputes' submission
- NSW Draft Design and Building Practitioners Bill 2019



Engagement and Events

NECA held a range of targeted Public and Government Relations engagement initiatives during 2019, including:

- Small Business Forum with Senator Andrew Bragg
- Official opening of the NSW NECA Centre of Excellence by The Hon. John Barilaro, Deputy Premier of NSW
- NECA Boardroom Luncheon with NSW Building Commissioner, David Chandler
- National and all State/Territory Excellence Awards
- NECA National Conference in Hamilton Island

NECA is looking forward to a busy 2020. Over the next year we will continue to work closely with Government and all relevant stakeholders to promote and drive our policy positions and remain responsive to changes across the industry and broader building and construction sector.

Industry Profile

More than 1,500 contractors and their employees completed NECA's 2019 Market Monitor survey, providing an overview of current trends in the sector.

Survey respondents shared insights on their business, purchasing practices and general market outlook. The survey focused on compliance, the impact of digital and new technologies and the perceived influence of the end-customer.

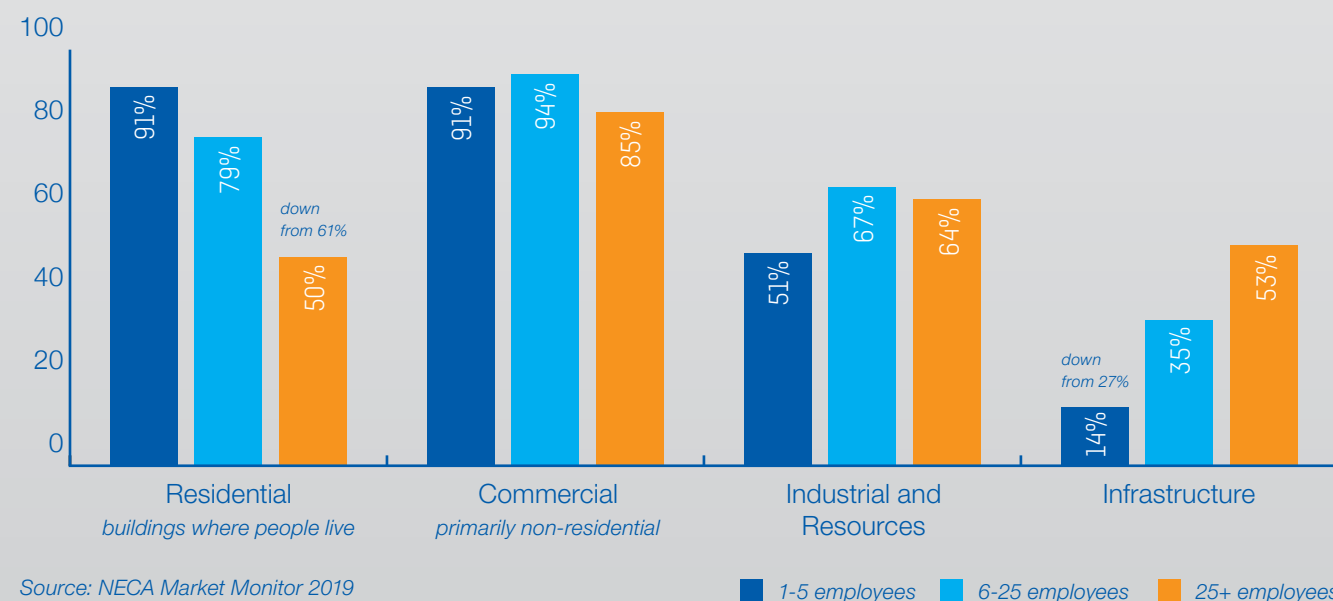
From the survey this year, it is clear the electrical industry is in a state of rapid technological change – perhaps at a rate not seen before in recent history.

This is a challenging time to be a contractor, due to the emergence of these new technologies, but equally is a time for industry leaders, wholesalers and manufacturers to step up.

Nature of the Work

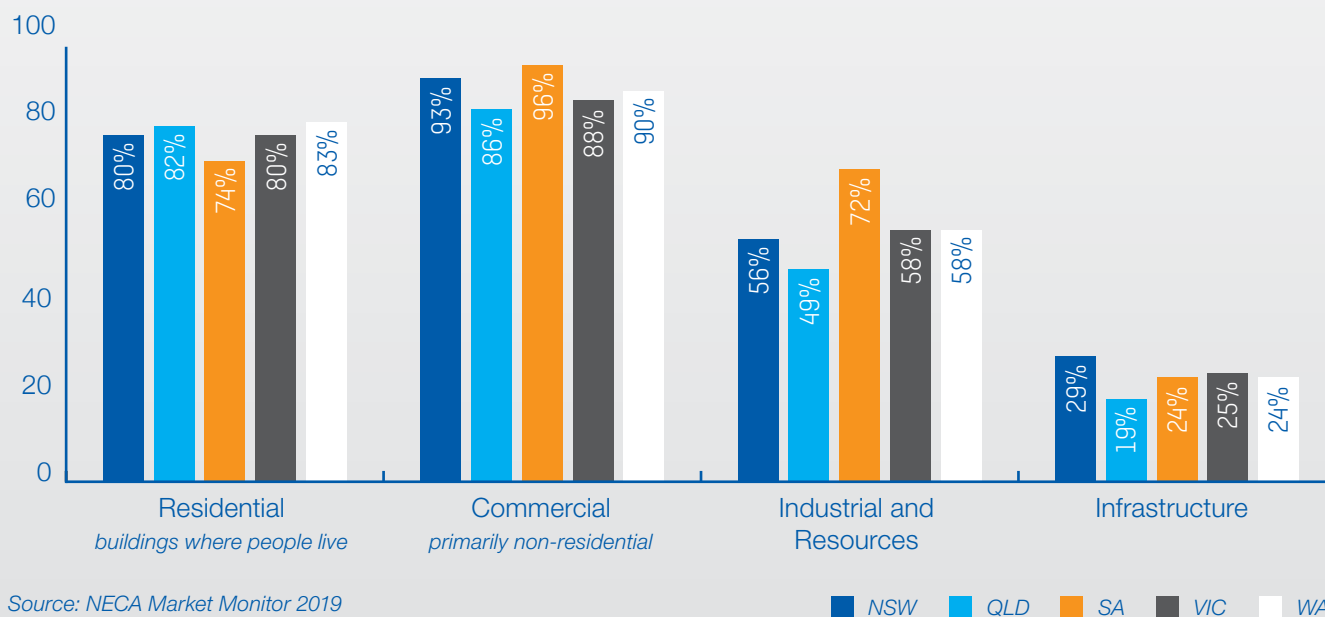
Residential and commercial projects continue to provide the mainstay of work for most electrical contractor businesses, regardless of size, with maintenance and renovation or refurbishment projects a prominent source of business. Compared to previous years, companies appear to be relying less on a single type of work for much of their revenue and are instead branching out.

Sources of Work by Company Size



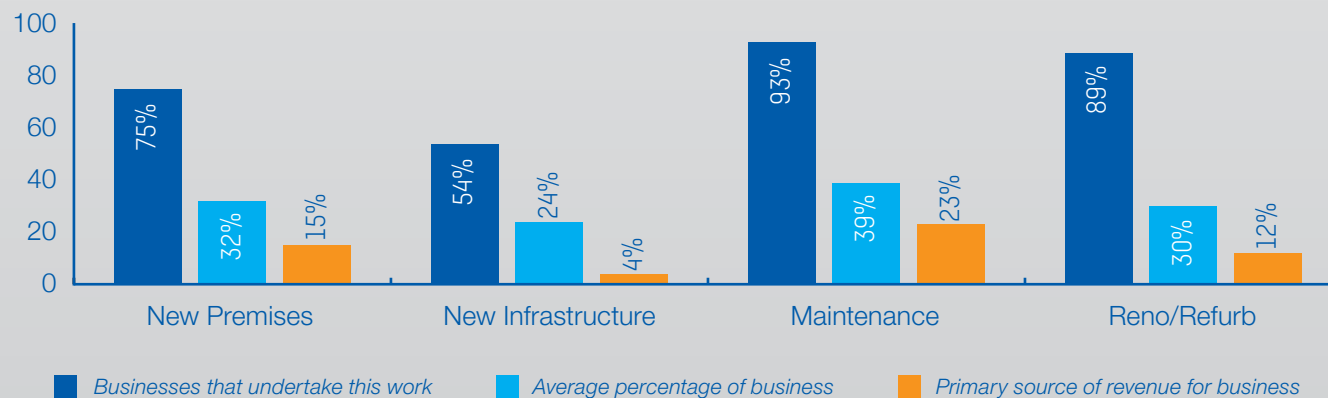
Sources of Work by Location

Across the States and Territories, the share of work in each sector varied. Industrial and resources work was more prominent in South Australia. Residential and commercial activity was universally common.



Types of Work Businesses Undertake

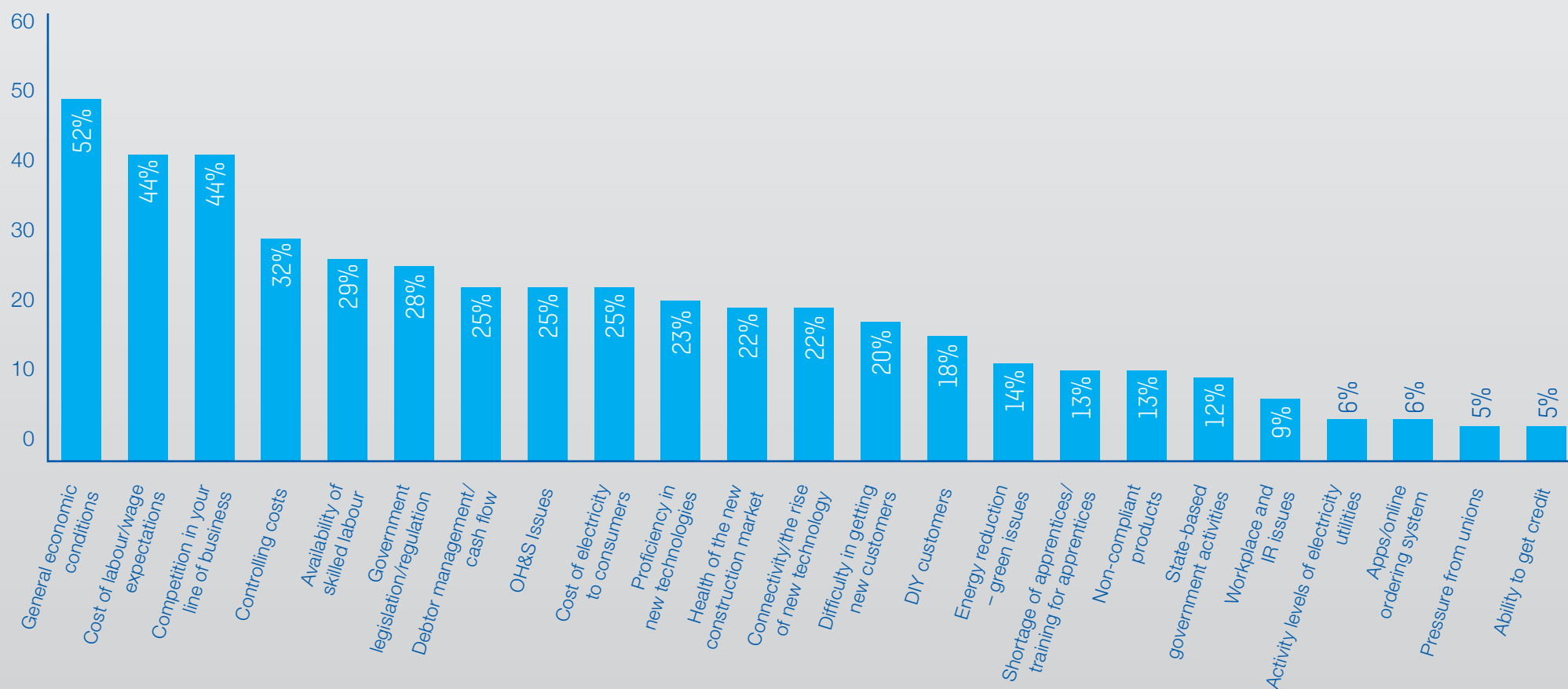
Businesses undertake a spread of work, however almost a quarter of businesses, regardless of size, derive their income from maintenance related activity.



External Factors for Concern

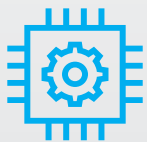
Contractors feel that external factors outside of their control will assert the greatest influence on their future business. Concern around general economic conditions and competition from other business remains high, but it is concerns about the cost and availability of skilled labour, and government legislation that has been growing year on year.

Most Important Factors for Business



Source: NECA Market Monitor 2019

Member Sentiment



Technological change is at the fore

Smart technology, IoT and automation are predicted to have an increasing impact on the industry, with around one third of contractors gearing up for this shift. Solar energy, battery storage and renewables also remain top of mind. However, at this stage these anticipated changes in the industry are not having any noticeable impact on the number of companies choosing to specialise in these areas.

Interestingly, contractors feel that the greatest threat to technological change in the industry is through the purchase and installation of poor quality, non-compliant products and (perceived) growing numbers uncertified or inexperienced tradespeople. They also acknowledge the skills and labour gaps in these emerging technological areas.



The way we work is changing

The ability to conduct business online continues to transform the way the electrical industry operates, especially for younger contractors. More and more contractors are using social media as a business tool, with two thirds using Facebook, and one quarter using Instagram.

This year 80% of survey respondents said they research product information online, with almost one third of businesses now ordering supplies online. The new technology gap is in ordering apps - 8% currently use an app to make orders, but 20% would like to be using an app.



We're more optimistic about the future

Optimism for future work remains high among survey respondents, with pessimism and concern for future work decreasing compared to previous years. High levels of optimism are most noticeable in bigger businesses (with over 5 employees).



Compliance is top of mind

When choosing which brand of product to purchase, compliance is key. Contractors feel confident they understand compliance and the risks that come from not using compliant products, however a majority feel that their end-consumers do not understand compliance.

Unsurprisingly, there is a high level of confidence among contractors that buying from trusted wholesalers will ensure they have compliant products.



The knowledge gap is widening

Half of contractors surveyed feel that their end-consumers are more knowledgeable than they used to be, however contractors expressed that this makes their job more difficult. According to those surveyed, there appears to be a growing gap in end-consumer knowledge levels, from the technologically illiterate to tech-savvy early adopters, and contractors are finding it challenging to communicate and converse across all levels of knowledge.

Apprentices

Apprentices are the future of our industry and a significant focus for NECA, and our members.

NECA training organisations across Australia provide skills development and work experience for approximately 4,800 apprentices and maintained over 90% completion rates across these training facilities.

To improve the delivery and appeal of apprenticeships, NECA has continued to work with the Federal and State and Territory Governments to deliver a number of industry-led pilots and programs to identify alternate training approaches to improve the skills, industry-readiness and diversity of apprentices and to better promote the benefits of a career in the sector.

Mentoring Apprentices

Mentoring is recognised as critical to the successful completion of a trade qualification.

NECA has been actively involved with the Industry Specialist Mentoring for Australian Apprentices (ISMAA) program to increase the retention rates of apprentices in the first two years of training, and as a result, improve completion rates and increase the supply of skilled workers in the Electrotechnology industry sector.

Through NECA's ISMAA program we have provided support for more than 3,500 first and second year apprentices across Australia over the past two years achieving success rates of around 90% through:

- developing relationships with apprentices
- personalised meetings
- keeping apprentices informed about opportunities relating to their apprenticeship
- liaison with registered training organisations (RTOs) regarding training
- providing support and advice
- being available to talk to apprentices and trainees about any issues they are having.

The ISMAA program demonstrates the great value of mentoring in keeping apprentices engaged.



Engaging the next generation

In 2019 NECA also partnered with the Queensland Government to promote electrotechnology and electrical services careers to young people, focusing on the '9 Key Reasons to Become an Electrician'.

Part of the Advancing Apprenticeships Fund, NECA's Program assessed young people's skills and whether they would be suited to an electrical apprenticeship.

The program was designed to encourage more Queenslanders to consider an electrical apprenticeship, as well as offer real opportunities by connecting aspiring apprentices with contracting businesses.

Since its inception, the program has been embraced by local businesses seeking pre-registered candidates for apprenticeships as well as those teachers instructing the TAFE Certificate II in Electrotechnology as a gateway for their students into the industry.

Success in shortlisting suitable candidates for electrical apprenticeships is credited to the use of an industry-specific Harrison Assessment Tool, developed by NECA in conjunction with the electrical industry. More than 80% of those completing the assessment were identified as being suited to a career in electrotechnology, and are on the pathway to securing an electrical apprenticeship.

Building facilities for the future

Improving the delivery and appeal of apprenticeship, NECA continues to expand its training capabilities across the country through the addition of new training facilities including in:

- Chullora, New South Wales
- Fyshwick, Australian Capital Territory
- Joondalup, Western Australia

This adds to the current network of training facilities location in Queensland, South Australia and Victoria.

"It is essential that apprenticeships are front and centre of discussion around young people's career options. Now more than ever, Australia needs electrical apprentices and those apprenticeships need support."

Suresh Manickam, CEO, NECA

NECA Foundation

Established in 2006, the NECA Foundation is a registered charity that supports education and career development initiatives in the Electrotechnology industry.

2019 saw the return of the popular Site-Office-to-Head-Office course, which equips electricians with the management skills required to thrive in business leadership roles.

Many future industry leaders participated in the four-day course this year, which will help them transition from site management roles to senior management at some of Australia's leading electrical contracting firms.

During NECA's National Conference on Hamilton Island the Foundation held a fundraising dinner, with money raised going to support the Foundation's important work in 2020.

In 2020 the Foundation will expand its course offering to include a Business Succession program that will see NECA engage with electrical contractors across the entire business and contracting career lifecycle.

The Foundation will also launch a new website, which will include an industry charge-out calculator; a tool developed for the industry, by the industry and available to all.



Foundation

national electrical and communications association



2019 National Conference

The annual NECA Conference in July this year has been touted as the best NECA Conference yet.

More than 330 delegates from across the country came together on the breath-takingly beautiful Hamilton Island for three days of engaging business sessions, unique local experiences and social events.

The 2019 Conference provided a fantastic line-up of presenters generating rave reviews from attendees. Claire Madden was the star presenter, unpacking the challenges of working with Generation Z apprentices. Glenn Cooper AM of Coopers Brewery shared his story and valuable insights into running a successful family business. The social program included sailing, snorkelling and off-road adventures, with an explosive rock ‘n’ roll event to close.

The NECA Conference would not have been possible without the support of industry leaders and Diamond Sponsors - Schneider Electric, Clipsal, L&H and NHP; and Conference Sponsors – MMEM and Legrand.

Thank you to everyone that attended - we hope to see even more members in 2020 when the NECA conference lands in Darwin.



2019 National Excellence Awards

NECA's Excellence Awards – Australia's top electrotechnology awards – have recognised NECA members for their outstanding workmanship and achievements for over 30 years. The Excellence Awards celebrate the leaders of our industry across a diverse range of categories.

From Australia's single largest residential building, to the first vertical school in South Australia, to a new 2,000 acre world-class equestrian facility with energy efficiency at its core, to the largest data storage centre in the southern hemisphere, NECA Excellence Award winners are delivering exceptional outcomes for their clients and the community at large.

The National Awards were presented at a sell-out gala dinner at the Howard Smith Wharves, Brisbane,

"NECA's Excellence Awards attracted more than 3,000 people to events across Australia."

attended by contractors, industry, sponsors, media and Government. Guests heard from The Hon. Steve Irons MP, Assistant Minister for Vocational Education, Training and Apprenticeships, sharing a personal account of his career as a tradesperson and the Government's vision for VET.

Congratulations to all our National and State award winners and finalists who have contributed to our industry's quest for excellence.



2019 National Award Winners



Winners

Commercial Large

Perigon
Skytower Apartments, Qld

Commercial Medium

NSG BOFFA
Adelaide Botanic High School, SA

Commercial Small

Calibre Electrical Contractors
Wickham Community Hub, WA

Industrial Large

Barnwell Cambridge
AirTrunk SYD1, NSW

Industrial Medium

Nilsen (SA)
Cobdogla Pump Station
Electrical Upgrade, SA

Industrial Small

C.J.Pearce
Asaleo Care PM3 HV
switchgear upgrade, Vic

Voice/ Data Communications & Audio

Programmed Electrical Technologies
WSP Brisbane Headquarters, Qld

Lighting

Appselec Qld
W Hotel Brisbane, Qld

Energy Efficiency & Environment

Shepherd Electrical
Willinga Park Equestrian Centre -
Stockyards Powerhouse, ACT

WH&S Management System (Company)

Fredon, ACT

WH&S Management System (Project)

Programmed Electrical Technologies
WSP Brisbane Headquarters,Qld

Small Contracting Business

Brooklyn Trade Services
Small Contracting Excellence, NSW

Domestic Residence

Advanced Lifestyle Solutions
Camberwell Residence, Vic



Commendations

Commercial Large

Stowe Australia
Western Sydney Stadium, NSW

Commercial Medium

Prime Electrical & Data Services
Melbourne Conservatorium of
Music, Vic

Commercial Medium

Stowe Australia
Borallon Training & Correctional
Centre Stage 4 Refurbishment
Project, Qld

Commercial Small

PM Electric
Jaguar Land Rover Mascot, NSW

Industrial Medium

Nilsen (Qld)
Ross River Solar Farm, Qld

Industrial Small

Fredon (WA) Electrical
RAAF Pearce Flightline Shelters, WA

Energy Efficiency & Environment

Appselec Qld
W Hotel Brisbane, Qld

Small Contracting Business

ATS - Australian Technical Services
Standby Generator Student
Boarding House, Vic

Domestic Residence

Buss and Grigg Electrical Services
King Street, SA

2019 National Apprentice Award Winners

NECA recognises the essential role apprentices play in the future of our industry. The Apprentice Awards showcase the outstanding contribution an apprentice can make to both the projects they work on and their employer's business. Congratulations to all the winners.

Winners

Industrial

Marek Porter

NECA Education & Careers
& RBD Electrical, Tas

Commercial/Domestic

Alexander Morisett

CME Group, SA

Communications

Steven Thomas

Peer & Apex Communication
Technologies Pty Ltd, SA

Runner-up

Industrial

Elizabeth Dowsett

BHP, WA

Commercial/Domestic

Jordan Rowland

NECA Electrical Apprenticeship & Green Switch Electrical, Qld



2019 National Trade Teacher Awards

This Award recognises the outstanding contribution made by trade teachers in continuously raising the standard of education and training in our industry.

The 2019 Trade Teacher is Troy Jezierski, NECA Education & Careers in Victoria. Troy has been instrumental in elevating teaching practice through his role in the development of a blended learning model, guiding new teachers as a mentor through the Pipeline program and importantly his student centric teaching style.

National Trade Teacher Award Winner

Troy Jezierski
NECA Education
and Careers, Vic





To enter a project in the 2020 NECA State Excellence Awards visit www.neca.asn.au to find out more.



Queensland Chapter

NECA Queensland Chapter has grown to almost 400 members, employing around 4,000 electrical professionals and purchasing more than \$400M of electrical equipment.



Peter Lamont,
Executive Director

After a number of peak years, the construction industry in Queensland experienced a considerable slowdown in 2019 with declines in both new residential dwellings and commercial projects. This has had an impact on many electrical contracting businesses as well as employment opportunities.

While we have been riding out this slowdown, we are on the cusp of seeing a number of major infrastructure projects get underway and anticipate a turnaround in 2020.

Projects in the pipeline for south-east Queensland include Queen's Wharf Brisbane, Brisbane Metro, Cross River Rail project, West Village and Herston Quarter redevelopment to name a few, we anticipate seeing a turnaround in 2020.

Regional areas of the State are also benefitting from a significant pipeline of construction projects, including the Houghton River Dam in Townsville, Shoalwater Bay defence training area expansion in Rockhampton and a number of tourism assets in Cairns.

These major projects will not only boost confidence locally, but also give the electrical industry an opportunity to showcase innovation.

Highlights and initiatives

2019 has seen a number of changes that have had an impact on our industry:

- From 1 January, the Electrical Safety Office (ESO) tightened the rules around contractor licensing so that all new Qualified Technical Persons (QTP) and Qualified Business Persons (QBP) need to undertake mandated training courses;
- The latest version of the Wiring Rules also became fully operational from 1 January after the transitional period, meaning all future jobs need to be completed to the new rule book;
- Our member services team added more than 100 toolbox talks to our website as well as a new staff induction package, desktop audit package and a number of new SWMS to our NECASafe program, including SWMS for working with Silica;
- New CRM and finance systems were implemented, making it easier to communicate with NECA members;
- New Security of Payment Act legislation came into force, introducing significant changes to both claimant and respondent rights and obligations with respect to payment claims under construction contracts.

Training and Careers

We now have around 140 apprentices in the NECA Group Training Scheme in Queensland. Many of Queensland's major contractors now use NECA GT as their preferred provider for apprentices.

It is incredibly rewarding to see these apprentices graduate as well-trained quality and competent tradespeople paving the way for future generations.

Industry Events and Awards

In 2019 we held our most successful NECA race day yet at Doomben, with some 215 attendees enjoying a day out with fellow members and industry partners.

Our NECA Queensland Excellence Awards were again our highlight event of the year, with some 280 attendees at the W Hotel, celebrating the leading and innovative work of the Queensland contracting industry.

We also held our NECA North Queensland Gala Dinner to recognise the outstanding achievements and contributions of our valued members.

The State also hosted the 2019 NECA National Conference on Hamilton Island and NECA National Excellence Awards at the Howard Smith Wharves. At the National Awards, Queensland members picked up 4 major awards and a number of commendations.

Advocating on behalf of members

In 2019 we put member views to Government in relation to licencing changes, apprentice issues, industrial action, electrical safety and Workplace Health and Safety.

NECA also presented a submission to a Parliamentary Committee on legislative proposals relating to portable long service leave.

Members and Sponsors

Thank you to our Council members for the significant time and effort they dedicate to ensuring the success of NECA and the improvement of the industry. It is also encouraging that we now have two new female regional Councillors.

I'd also like to thank our sponsors for their ongoing support, which provides valuable assistance to NECA and the industry and in supporting us to provide a range of highly enjoyable events.

The Year Ahead

2020 looks promising as we seek to grow our membership and expand our services. NECA Queensland is also helping members in current EBA negotiations. With a number of new projects now completing the ground works or just commencing the site works, it looks like the second half of the year will be a time of growth for our electrical industry.

"Projects in the pipeline for south-east Queensland include Queen's Wharf Brisbane, Brisbane Metro, Cross River Rail project, West Village and Herston Quarter redevelopment."

Winner of the Lighting Category
and Commended Energy
Efficiency & Environment,
2019 NECA National
Excellence Awards

Appselec Qld: W Hotel Brisbane



New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory Chapters



Oliver Judd,
Executive Director

While the NSW and ACT economies continue to enjoy solid growth, the business environment in 2019 has been challenging for many members. The fallout from Opal Tower and broader review of the building standards in NSW and the ACT has dominated headlines, while there has been a marked slowdown in the construction sector in NSW, particularly in residential activity.

Ausgrid's 'Pause on Live Work' also caused significant challenges for many members and overturning it has been a key focus for NECA throughout the year.

Meanwhile, damage caused by catastrophic weather events has required members to undertake urgent repair work – and we thank all those who have contributed to getting power back to those in need.

Despite the challenges, we have seen members thrive by embracing the continued growth in residential and commercial renewables, as well as electrical vehicles where the ACT has been particularly active. Government investment in infrastructure across NSW and the ACT continues to present significant opportunities for the electrical contracting industry.

Highlights and Initiatives

2019 was a big year for the NSW Chapter during which our different business units moved into our new purpose-built headquarters in Chullora, along with our apprentice training program.

Opened by The Hon. John Barilaro, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade, the Centre of Excellence will further collaboration to benefit members, as well as apprentices who train at the Centre.

Meanwhile, the ACT saw the opening of its own state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence where the next generation of electricians will be equipped with the skills to lead the industry in the future, benefitting members across the territory.

In addition to new premises, the NSW and ACT Chapters undertook a major digital project, implementing a number of solutions across Customer Relations, Finance third party payments and a new membership portal, aimed at improving the member experience and automating Chapter business processes.

NECA has also expanded its membership services division to better support members through our telephone advisory service.

Total membership across NSW and ACT for the year remained strong, with more than 1,850 members. We are confident that the benefits of the move will materialise in the coming months meaning we can offer members an even better service and grow membership numbers to further strengthen our work.

Training and Careers

The two new NECA Training Centres of Excellence in Sydney and Canberra will support the commencement of CIII Electrotechnology trade training. The full Apprenticeship will be introduced at both sites by 2021.

NECA is also building its offering of post-trade training with members taking up training in Accredited Service Provider status, telecommunications, safety, estimating and solar to name a few. NECA Training also delivered the refreshed Site Office to Head Office training in partnership with the NECA Foundation.

Advocating on Behalf of Members

The NSW and ACT Chapters have been advocating on a range of issues affecting members, including: Metering, Phoenixing, Security of Payments, Ausgrid's Pause on Live Work, Ring-fencing, Apprenticeships, and Regulations for electrical work in caravans.

This has involved making several submissions and presenting member concerns to a range of political and industry stakeholders, including:

- The Hon. Matt Kean MP, Minister for Energy and Environment
- The Hon. John Barilaro, Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade
- David Chandler, NSW Building Commissioner
- Senior officials from the NSW Department for Energy and Environment
- Senior officials from SafeWork NSW
- The Australian Energy Market Regulator (AEMO)

- The Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC)
- The Competitive Metering Industry Group
- Energy distribution companies including Ausgrid

Advocacy will continue to be a major focus for the NSW and ACT Chapters as we work with members to overcome regulatory and political challenges.

Celebrating Excellence

It was another great year for NSW and ACT members at the State and Territory, and National NECA Excellence Awards, with many outstanding and award-winning projects in 2019.

A heartfelt congratulations to all the winners and we are looking forward to seeing more ground-breaking projects in 2020.

Our Partners

A big thanks to all our members for their continued support for NECA and our work.

I would also like to thank our Diamond and Platinum business partners for their significant contribution to the Chapters.

The Year Ahead

A new decade brings new opportunities. The continued shift towards smart cities, infrastructure and buildings mean electrical work is increasingly important to every project, and NECA members are well placed to benefit.

Similarly, the energy transition is well underway, with residential and commercial-scale renewables now a common sight, and energy efficiency a consideration for more and more homes and businesses.

Electric vehicles offer further opportunities for members to contribute to the electrification of the whole economy.

In short, 2020 is set to be an exciting year in the electrical contracting industry albeit not without macroeconomic challenges. The NSW and ACT Chapters will be focused on working closely with members to realise the many opportunities for them in the NSW and ACT economies, helping their businesses thrive over the next decade and beyond.

Oliver Judd

Executive Director

"NECA members are well placed to take advantage of the transition to new technologies and the new opportunities this will open up for the electrical and communications industry."



Winner of the Industrial Large
Project Category, 2019 National
Excellence Awards

Barnwell Cambridge: AirTrunk SYD1, NSW

Victoria Chapter

It is with great pleasure to share my first NECA Victoria review. There is a renewed energy and momentum gathering in Victoria, with several initiatives implemented recently and next year looking equally exciting.



Pawel Podolski,
Executive Director

Victoria has the fastest growing population nationally. This rapid growth over the past five years is evident with the Melbourne housing price boom, and the Victorian Government is working to keep up with demand for public infrastructure.

To support this, the Government has committed \$30 billion in infrastructure investment, with these projects anticipated to positively impact our industry over the next 12-18 months. However, many are predicting this will be accompanied by an industry wide skills shortage.

This is in contrast to the past few years where electrical contractors in Victoria have experienced weak demand in several key markets including domestic single dwelling and multi-residential as well as non-building infrastructure related activity. Rising investment in industrial building construction during this time did however provide a much needed counterbalance. Demand from institutional construction is expected to increase in the first half of 2020.

Highlights and Initiatives

2019 has been a breakthrough year for NECA Victoria in the Technical Advisory Services space. Our Health and Safety Management System was completely overhauled to ensure it is compliant with current WHS regulations, with a Certificate of Compliance issued by TQCSI. We also welcomed Peter Tsoubos to NECA as HSEQ Manager.

The Technical Team answered and resolved close to 1,000 Technical Hotline and Inbox queries. The Technical Knowledge Base (TKB) is continuously updated to reflect changes in Australian standards and industry requirements. In 2019 there were over 700 new users added to the NECA Victoria TKB, and over 6,000 searches conducted. Due to the demand, NECA Victoria also welcomed Michael Weekes, who joined us to expand our technical capability. Our Workplace Relations and Industrial Relations service continues to be in high demand, resolving close to 4,000 enquiries across key issues affecting members such as termination & dismissals, bullying and safety matters, performance/conduct, under-payments and enterprise bargaining agreements. The team is also well versed in emerging issues such as labour hire licensing, industrial manslaughter and mental health.

During 2019 our team has taken the time to understand our rich and diverse membership. We have developed a NECA Victoria Member Journey and Member Engagement blueprint, improved our account management approach across both metropolitan and regional areas of Victoria, adopting a cultural mind-set of delighting our members. We have also identified gaps and opportunities to build value in key areas of the business. We will continue to check-in with our members and provide them with meaningful opportunities to shape the NECA offering.

Training and Careers

NECA Education & Careers (E&C) in Victoria continues on its quest to provide high quality training to meet the demand for skilled tradespeople. Each year the Victorian Department of Education and Training releases a Performance Summary Report for every Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and TAFE. The report provides the key performance measures across student experience, student outcomes and employer feedback.

In the Student experience category, satisfaction with training provided by NECA E&C was 83.3%, compared to the State average of 77.5%. In the Student outcomes category, satisfaction was an outstanding 92.7% - well above the State average of 73.5%. In addition, the proportion of VET students who would recommend NECA E&C to their colleagues was 85% compared to the Victorian State average of 76%. In the Employer feedback category, our employers have continued to express high levels of satisfaction (82%) with the training provided by NECA E&C compared to the average (78.5%).

Our focus remains on putting the student at the centre of everything we do, developing and supporting our teachers, while continuing to invest in our learning and practical resources.

This year was also very busy for the Industry Specialist Mentoring for Australian Apprentices (ISMAA) program team and mentors. We recruited 1,200 apprentices into the mentoring program in Victoria, providing ongoing support to a diverse range of individuals on their journey to become the next generation of A Grade Electricians.

NECA Women's Network was re-launched in March 2019 after a three-year absence from NECA's Events calendar. The Network was successfully re-ignited to coincide with International Women's Day, attracting 100 female members and stakeholders in the electrotechnology industry. These events provide a platform for women to share knowledge and experiences working in a traditionally male dominated industry and take back tips, tools and resources to apply back to the business.

Celebrating Excellence

The 2019 Excellence and Apprentice Awards maintained its position as the industry's biggest awards ceremony with around 750 industry representatives recognising the State's best electrotechnology projects.

There were 48 nominated projects (15% increase on 2018) across 13 categories. E&C also awarded 2 Apprentice Awards, 3 Apprentice Certificates of Achievement and 2 Apprentice Commendations for the State. We are proud to report that 3 of our Victoria Award winners went on to win National Excellence Awards and 2 received National Commendations. A big congratulations to the entire Victorian cohort!

Pawel Podolski
Executive Director

"NECA Women's Network was re-launched in March 2019 after a three-year absence from NECA's Events calendar. The Network was successfully re-ignited to coincide with International Women's Day, attracting 100 female members and stakeholders in the electrotechnology industry."



Winner of the Domestic Residence Category,
2019 National Excellence Awards

Advanced Lifestyle Solutions: Camberwell Residence, Vic

Western Australia Chapter

In 2019 NECA Western Australia welcomed more than 180 new members.



Carl Copeland,
Chapter Secretary

Membership Strong Despite Economic Climate

Membership numbers have remained steady for the past 12 months at around 1,400 members, a significant effort in the current economic climate, described by some industry veterans as the worst they have ever seen.

Despite this it has been pleasing to see an increasing number of members continuing to access the extensive range of technical, legal and safety services available as part of their membership.

Members continually rate technical information as the most important service to their business and NECA WA has been pleased to offer outstanding services in this area. The Technical Hotline received more than 13,000 calls in the past 12 months, in addition to 8,150 searches and 36,000 article views on the Technical Knowledge Base.

NECA Legal WA provided 900 hours of free legal advice to NECA members and collected more than \$300,000 of outstanding payments for members, free of charge.

The Safety team continues to provide valuable safety advice and support to members. Hundreds of 'Working Live Packs' were distributed to members to assist with adhering to the working live regulations and there was a 110% increase in the number of clients who achieved certification.

Advocating on Behalf of Members

Advocating on behalf of members is one of NECA WA's most important activities. In the past year NECA WA has strengthened its relationships with stakeholder organisations, Government departments and State and Federal ministers, and we've had regular meetings to collaborate on industry issues and identify improvements that will benefit members.

At a state level, in 2019 we lobbied government, regulators and other industry associations on:

- Synergy's entry into the retail solar market
- The use of DC isolators on solar installations
- The definition of electrical work on solar installations
- The regular testing of electrical wiring in homes to prevent incidents
- The enforcement of two years' work experience before an electrical worker can gain an electrical contractor's licence
- Safe Working guidelines for electrical workers and apprentices
- Changes to the Apprenticeship Supervision Guidelines
- Communication regarding the placement of bonding points in swimming pools
- Acceptable methods for sealing switchboards
- Clarifying the requirements for electrical workers to have first aid qualifications

Events and Awards

NECA WA continues to support the WA electrical industry by hosting events and seminars which provide members with learning and networking opportunities and celebrate industry achievements.

- In 2019, 2,175 people attended more than 40 NECA WA events, including 22 NECA Member Night Roadshows across the state and five Tech Talks.
- NECA WA coordinated and marketed the NECA National Conference in Hamilton Island, touted as the best NECA Conference ever held with 330 delegates from around the country in attendance.
- In the second half of the year NECA WA launched educational webinars, designed to provide regional members with access to some of our most popular technical information-based events.
- The fourth Future Leaders Program delivered 8 informative sessions to 12 participants.

We were pleased to acknowledge our most exceptional projects and apprentices at the NECA WA Excellence and Apprentice Awards in August. Congratulations to Calibre Electrical Contractors who won the 2019 NECA National Excellence Award in the Small Commercial category for Wickham Community Hub.

Training and Careers

NECA WA works closely with EGT and CET to ensure industry has access to high quality training and apprentice employment options.

EGT, CET and NECA WA were announced as joint recipients of the WA Industry Collaboration Award at the WA Training Awards. The prize was awarded for their Electrical Industry Female Participation Program (EIFPP) - recognising exemplary skills, development and collaboration between themselves, NECA members Bon Electrics and Williams Electrical, secondary schools and local employers to improve course accessibility and reduce barriers for female school students obtaining an apprenticeship.

The program provides a structured career pathway into the electrical industry, promotes the electrical industry as 'gender-neutral', and delivers a training experience aimed at giving students the best possible chance of employment.

EGT has had an improved year in 2019 with a number of notable achievements:

- Provided 261 host employers with quality apprentices
- Employed 163 new apprentices
- Produced 148 graduate electricians
- EGT apprentices were recognised by industry, featuring in the finals and winning places in a range of awards, including the NECA WA Apprentice Awards, WorldSkills Regional Competition and ANZETA Trans-Tasman Challenge 2019.

CET maintains a dominant position in industry training, with award-winning instructors and systems and resources that are in demand not only in Australia, but on an international level.

In 2019, CET:

- Trained half of WA's electrical mechanic apprentices
- Achieved an apprentice completion rate of 90%, well above the industry average of 70%
- Provided general and post-trade training courses to more than 4000 students
- Successfully lobbied the State Government to slash the course fees for UEE30811 Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician for 2020 and 2021.

I'd like to extend my thanks to our members, the NECA WA Board and committee members, industry stakeholders and sponsors for their ongoing support of NECA WA and the electrical industry. NECA WA continues to be the strongest member association for electrical contractors in WA.

Carl Copeland

Chapter Secretary

Advocating
on behalf of
members is one
of NECA WA's
most important
activities.

Winner of the Commercial Small Category, 2019 National Excellence Awards

Calibre Electrical Contractors: Wickham
Community Hub



South Australia and Northern Territory Chapters



Larry Moore,
Executive Director

Our membership numbers have remained consistent with recent years and while still at historically low levels, is reflective of the project activity, particularly in the commercial sector. There are however signs of improvement with State Government building activity on the rise. We remain committed to making membership a major focus of our activities this year, continuously improving our products and services to ensure member value for money. This has included extensive development of our HSEQ Management System with a new digital option for members in early 2020.

Highlights and Initiatives

The past year has seen ongoing development of initiatives such as NECA's associated group training company, NECA Careers and Apprenticeships (NCA), which is without doubt one of the most significant projects undertaken by NECA SA/NT for many years, and one we firmly believe will provide significant benefits to NECA SA/NT Chapter members and industry more broadly.

NCA now employs 71 apprentices, one office administration trainee and three highly competent staff and will only continue to grow. This will ensure our members and the industry are supplied with quality apprentices who will receive the full range of training and achievement of competencies as required by the training packages and industry.

Increased activity in the Northern Territory has been reflected in our growing membership numbers across

the Territory. This includes delivery of an industry Roadshow Seminar, which has enhanced our profile with both industry and local government agencies.

Advocating on Behalf of Members

The NECA SA/NT Chapter has continued to play a significant role in the SA building and construction industry alongside other sub-contractor associations through Specialist Contractors SA to collectively represent sub-contractors to industry and government and its relevant departments, which has included the provision of submissions in regard to Security of Payment and unfair contract matters where sub-contractors continue to be negatively affected.

The NECA SA/NT Chapter has also continued to take a lead role in the resolution of a major issue affecting our industry since the introduction of 'Metering Choice', which has caused significant disruption to the electrical connection process in South Australia. The recognition by AEMO and electricity retailers of the major role played by NECA SA/NT in this matter has been rewarding and hopefully duly acknowledged by industry generally.

Representation as Chair of the Electrotechnology Industry Reference Committee (IRC), which has carriage of the development and maintenance of our trade training programs for our sector, has resulted in a rise in work associated with the new training package development system. This is of critical importance to our industry.

Our industry representation has also included Director of Energy Skills Australia (E-Oz), Director of the Australian Refrigeration Council (national licensing regulator for the refrigeration and air conditioning industry), Director of the SA Portable Long Service Leave Board, Member of the Training and Skills Commission (TASC) Industry Skills Council, Member of the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) Commercial Sector Committee and Chair of the national Industry Reference Committee (IRC) for the Electrotechnology sector.

We have also continued to provide representation and advocacy for the electrical and communications sectors with industry stakeholders such as the Office of the Technical Regulator, SA Power Networks, Office of Consumer & Business Services, SafeWork SA, ReturnToWork SA, Office of the Small Business Commissioner, Training and Skills Commission, Office of the Training Advocate, Office of the Industry Advocate, manufacturers and wholesalers.

Events and Networking

2019 saw the delivery of another very successful Industry Roadshow series. NECA SA/NT staff and our industry partners travelled to all regions of the State providing information to industry. This continues to be the only source of continuous professional development for our industry in South Australia.

Training and Careers

NECA facilitated a range of training seminars and workshops on topical issues such as Security of Payments, Business Management, Leadership and more. We are looking forward to delivering further

training sessions for our members in 2020 and will be working closely with Master Plumbers Association SA and Air Conditioning and Mechanical Contractors Association SA to deliver seminars and workshops that will assist a broader range of subcontractors across South Australia.

Celebrating Excellence

In 2019 the quality work of NECA SA members was recognised through the annual Excellence and Apprentice Awards. The event was well attended with outstanding feedback from members and sponsors. It was rewarding to see a number of SA projects take out a number of the top National Excellence and Apprentice Awards.

Members and Sponsors

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our sponsors of the many events that we held throughout the year. The ongoing support of our major sponsors ensures we can continue to deliver high level events and activities for our members.

I also wish to personally thank the Committee of Management and the NECA SA/NT team for their untiring dedication, commitment and support of the Association throughout 2019.

The Year Ahead

We have several new initiatives on the way in 2020 that we are looking forward to including the HSEQ Digital product mentioned earlier, as well as a new women's group *Crucial Women in Construction* (CWIC).

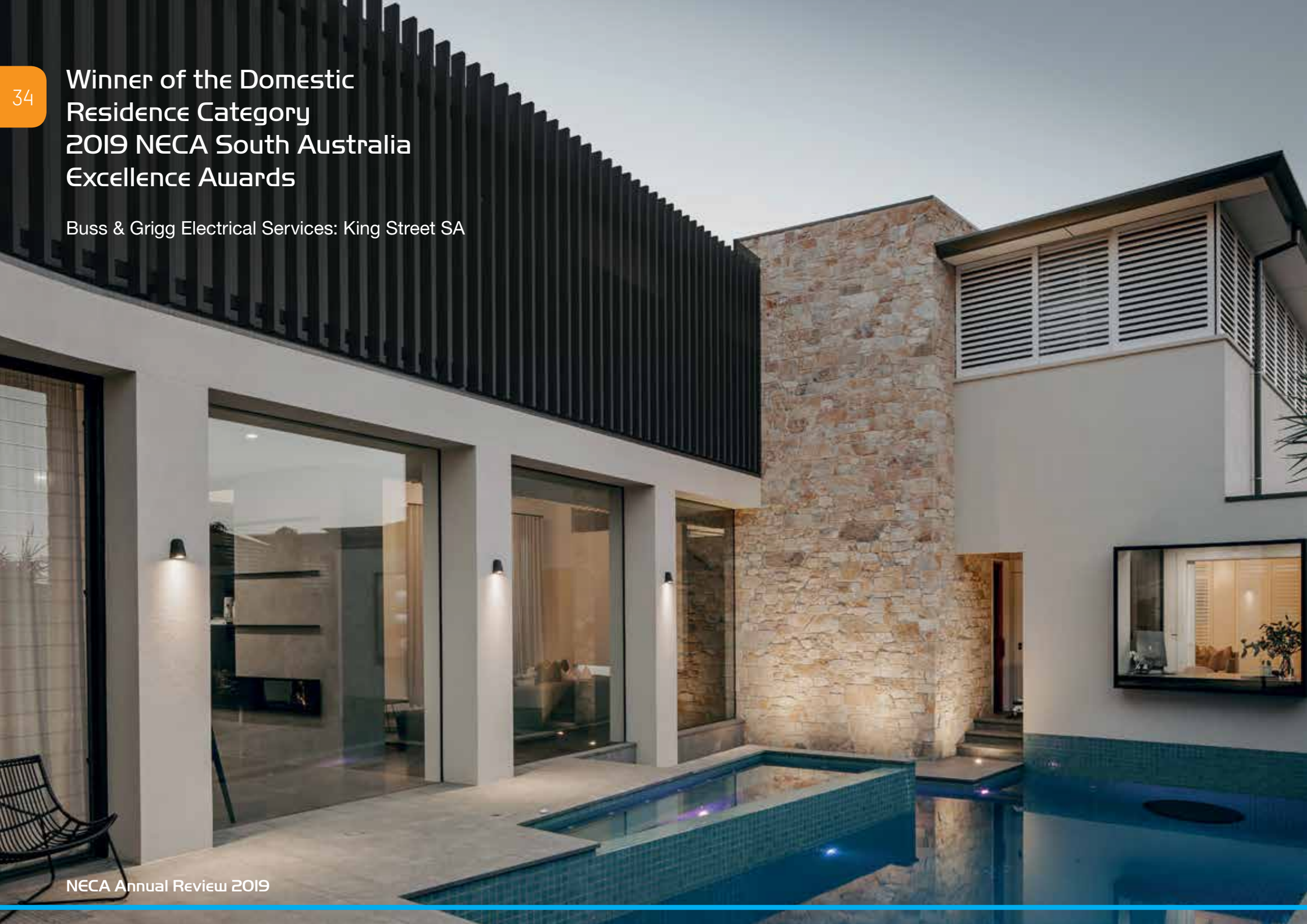
We will also be holding many other events and workshops designed to assist our members with their businesses, including our Roadshow Seminar Series which is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. We hope to be able to continue to assist our members in the best way possible in 2020 and thank them for their ongoing support.

Larry Moore,
Executive Director

“Increased activity in the Northern Territory has been reflected in our growing membership numbers across the Territory. This includes delivery of an industry Roadshow Seminar, which has enhanced our profile with both industry and local government agencies.”

Winner of the Domestic
Residence Category
2019 NECA South Australia
Excellence Awards

Buss & Grigg Electrical Services: King Street SA



Tasmania Chapter

Tasmania has one of the strongest and fastest growing economies in Australia. Building and construction is one of the best performing sectors, contributing more than \$2 billion to the State's economy.



Wayne Hobson,
President,
NECA Tasmania

This performance can be attributed to the recent and increasing Government commitment to ongoing funding and a strong pipeline of infrastructure projects. Building approvals continue to be strong, indicating that the current high level of residential development and construction will be sustained in the medium-term to meet demand. These conditions are expected to support and attract further growth, investment, building and development throughout Tasmania.

Highlights and Initiatives

This year we saw considerable change across the State with NECA continuing to represent members and the broader electrotechnology industry through engagement with the Tasmanian Government and other key stakeholders.

Attendance at the NECA Annual Business Luncheon reflects the prosperous economic period we find ourselves in, with significant activity right across the building and construction sector. NECA remains focused on contributing to this successful era by meeting the needs and expectations of the Tasmanian community through the provision of skilled electrical contractors to undertake Tasmania's construction activities, as well as advocating the issues impacting our members.

Advocating on Behalf of Members

The NECA Tasmania Chapter has been advocating on a range of issues affecting members including advocating for the redevelopment of the TasTafe Clarence Campus into a Centre of Excellence Trades and Water, and an extension to the 2017 payroll tax concessions for apprenticeship take-ups.

Through proactive engagement and collaborative partnerships, NECA continues to build strong working relationships with key organisations including Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS), and Tasmania's building and consumer regulator. We are represented on several committees and are regularly called upon for insight on issues affecting the electrical and communications sector in Tasmania.

NECA also continues to support the Tasmanian Government implement Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for the sector. There are more than 1,000 electrical workers across the State that are maintaining and developing their skill through the CPD program.

Training and Careers

2019 saw a record number of apprentices in traineeships across the State. The calibre of the State's students was exemplified at the NECA National Apprentice Awards with Tasmanian local Marek Porter from NECA Education & Careers (employed by RBD Electrical) winning the 'Industrial Apprentice of the Year'.

The CPD program in Tasmania continues to be attended by hundreds of industry professionals from across the state with topics including the:

- AS/NZS 3000:2018 wiring rule changes;
- Work related psychological health and safety training;
- Seismic Design of Building Services;
- Managing legal issues and reducing legal risk; and
- Various safety related aspects of electrical work from Arc-Flash Awareness and Asbestos Awareness to Isolation Lockout and Electromagnetic radiation.

Awards and Events

The 2019 NECA Annual Business Luncheon was a great success. These luncheons provide an opportunity for our members, business partners and representatives from across the electrotechnology industry in Tasmania to come together in support of the building and construction sector, as well as create and enhance business and networking opportunities. It was a privilege to be joined by guest speaker Andrew Goldsworthy Acting Executive Director, Consumer Building and Occupational Licensing, Department of Justice this year.

In addition, our quarterly Industry Liaison meetings held in the South, North and North West of the State brought together a wide segment of the community interested in improving the electrical industry in Tasmania. This meeting of industry stakeholders covers topics and issues affecting the electrical industry such as the Electrical Safety Bill, solar installation defect rates, and energy meters.

Each year the Excellence Awards dinner attracts an outstanding turnout from the local industry, our members and business partners. This year we were overwhelmed by a record number of entries across all categories, including Apprentice of the Year. I would like to extend a congratulations to all of our local Excellence and Apprentice Award winners.

In particular, congratulations to first time entrant Nelson South Electrical, as well as RBD Electrical, Stowe Australia, Shane Hill Electrical and Degree C

Thank you

I would like to acknowledge our valued sponsors and thank them all for their continued support. Our sponsors are instrumental to member engagement in Tasmania.

Special thanks to Michael Bowring, Jim Heerey, Shane Hill and Mark Richardson for their support, as well as Suresh Manickam for his ongoing engagement with the Tasmanian Government.

The Year ahead

A new decade opens the door to new opportunities for not only our members but for the industry at large. The electrotechnology sector is uniquely positioned at the intersection of essential infrastructure and emerging technology that enables delivery of outstanding solutions to business, government and the local community at large.

Wayne Hobson

President, NECA Tasmania

Winner of the Energy Efficiency and Environment Project Category 2019 NECA Tasmania Excellence Awards

Nelson South Electrical Contractor: Tasman National Parks, Tas



Member Benefits

NECA members have access to a wide range of National and Chapter benefits including advice, education, discounts and networking opportunities.



Education and Training

Technical and business courses range from legislation and policy change through to human resources and marketing to help you manage your business, keep your skills-up-to-date and increase your competitiveness.

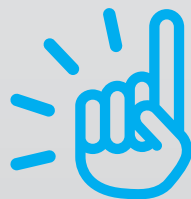
NECA also trains and employs around 4,800 apprentices across Australia with the majority having the opportunity to gain work experience with NECA members.



Tools and Resources

NECA's Technical Knowledge Base (TKB) is an online searchable database of Australian Standards, Guidelines, Service and Installation Rules, codes of practice and legislation. A forum lets you ask questions and share your knowledge. Each NECA Chapter has a TKB with accurate, up-to date information to help improve member productivity, safety and accuracy.

NECA Chapter offices can also provide templates and standard contracts to help you manage your business administration.



Customised Advice

As well as our electrotechnology experts who can help with technical questions, NECA has a number of experts who can provide specific advice on legal matters, industrial relations, human resources and Workplace Health and Safety.



Discounts and Services

Being an industry association representing thousands of members, NECA can negotiate discounts and offers on products and services that support your business. National benefits available to all members include discounts on fleet vehicles, vehicle servicing, reduced rates on health insurance and telecommunications, and quarterly Electrical Connections magazine.

Each NECA State and Territory Office provides a different package of discounts and benefits including Fuel Cards, Trade Services and PPE. Visit the NECA website www.neca.asn.au or contact your local Chapter to find out what is available.



Events and Networking

NECA's annual National Excellence Awards and National Conference bring together members from across Australia, providing an opportunity to hear about the latest industry trends, develop business skills and celebrate the achievements of your peers in a relaxed environment.

Local State and Territory events such as business lunches and race-days are other ways NECA connects members across the country.



Advocacy and Representation

NECA is the voice of the Electrotechnology industry in Australia, lobbying government, regulators and industry bodies on behalf of members.

Through our bi-annual Market Monitor survey we identify key issues and concerns for our members, enabling us to develop policy and make recommendations to improve conditions across the sector.

ACRS Annual Report

The Australian Cabler Registration Service (ACRS) is Australia's second largest Registrar of Cablers - run by the industry, for the industry.

ACRS is a wholly owned and operated subsidiary of NECA and is licensed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).

In Australia, installation of any equipment that will be connected to the telecommunications network can only be performed by a technician with a current cabling registration. This includes cabling for monitored security alarms, closed circuit TV, telephone lines, internet connected computers, building automation and smart home systems.

ACRS advocates to the Communications Minister, ACMA and the NBN to address concerns raised by registered cablers and to ensure that ACMA regulations are effective in ensuring quality without being unduly restrictive on businesses.

As one of the leading registrars of cablers in Australia, and part of NECA, ACRS is uniquely positioned to represent the interests of cablers across all States and Territories.

ACRS ensures that competency levels are appropriate for registered cablers to guarantee the high quality of cabling work across Australia and keeps its registered cablers up to date on the latest issues in this rapidly changing field of technology.

2019 ACRS Highlights:

- Increased cabler registrations to around 26,000 across Australia;
- Continued to lobby ACMA to encourage strengthening of regulatory controls and to ensure the communications industry remains strong and viable. With the development of new technologies customer cabling continues to be an integral part of the telecommunications network for the foreseeable future. Poor cabling practices could result in a lethal situation.

- Actively prepared cablers to meet ACMA competence requirements associated with the NBN, one of the biggest publicly funded infrastructure projects in Australia;
- Participated in major telecommunications and electronics industry conferences Integrate 2019 in Melbourne and Security 2019 in Sydney, both of which brought together renowned industry speakers, education programs and global product launches;
- Sponsored the NECA National Conference 2019, where ACRS gained access to more than 330 attendees to promote safe cabling practices and educate electrical contractors on the communications industry requirement for cabling registration.
- Topics of focus for ACRS have included Power over Ethernet (PoE) and home automation as well as a Home Wiring Essentials guide for consumers and Cabling Registration guide for electricians.

Peter Lamont
Director



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