

25 March 2020

The Hon. Kevin Anderson, MP
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister Anderson,

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) regarding the commencement of the Competent Fire Safety Practitioner (CFSP) registration requirements under the Fire Protection Accreditation Scheme (FPAS).

It is our understanding that the NSW Government proposes to introduce changes to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* from April 2020 that will require practitioner's including electrical contractors, ventilation and mechanical/electrical trades, to be registered as a CFSP in order to carry out fire design and Annual Fire Safety Statements (AFSS).

NECA NSW Branch has been receiving a high number of queries from our members and across the electrotechnology industry concerning some statements made by building owners, head contractors and real estate companies that electricians must be registered as a CFSP through the Fire Protection Association Australia (FPAA).

Currently the training undertaken by electricians, ventilation and mechanical/electrical trades includes design, construct, installation, implementation and reporting mechanisms. The work done by our industry is specific to us and is complex in nature both in theoretical knowledge and practical technology.

Electrical companies that undertake this work have been told as they aren't registered with the FPAA that they won't be able to continue with their contracts. We have been advised that layoffs will occur causing further strain on an economy that is being affected by the current global health crisis.

In our view, the proposed accreditation scheme is not the best practice for the industry and existing licensing arrangements are effective. As electricians are already licenced

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and regulated under the Electricity Supply Act 1995, we are seeking an immediate exclusion or recognition from this scheme as an interim measure for at least twelve months. We also request that any fees paid by electricians to the FPAA for the FPAS be reimbursed in due course.

We are very eager to resolve this matter, and we recognise that the priorities for Government and industry concern immediately protecting the wellbeing of our community and the economy in light of COVID-19. On this basis, we dutifully request that the commencement of these proposed amendments be deferred until April 2021, and further consultation be undertaken with NECA.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr Grant Morehouse (Technical Advisor) on (02) 9021 9611.

I am looking forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Suresh Manickam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Suresh Manickam
Chief Executive Officer
National Electrical and Communications Association