

A WORD FROM THE CEO

As 2020 unfolds we consider what the future holds for the Australian electrotechnology industry. In the face of constant government, regulatory, economic and technological change, we see our industry remaining strong, yet flexible and importantly, resilient.

In 2020 NECA will continue to proactively advocate and engage with Federal and State Governments, policy-makers and regulators, on the foremost concerns affecting our members and industry including:

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 state and national 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-confirming 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 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.

Delivering Skills for Today and Tomorrow

NECA has recently released its submission on the Australian Government's Skills Reform Package 'Delivering Skills for Today and Tomorrow'. Our key recommendations seek to ensure an efficient, competitive and sustainable VET system in Australia, underpinned by industry.

NECA recognises that the future of Australia's VET is a shared responsibility. Success in being able to deliver skills for today, and tomorrow, is reliant on the electrical and communications industry being wholly integrated to all aspects of the co-design process and all relevant governance arrangements.

The opportunity for contractors in 2020 and beyond

From the NECA Market Monitor 2019 survey it is clear the electrical industry is in a state of rapid technological change - perhaps at a rate not seen before in recent history. The coming decade will be a

challenging time to be a contractor, but equally, the opportunity for savvy contractors is immense.

'Smart' technology, Internet of Things and automation are predicted to have a big impact on the industry in the next few years, and roughly one third of contractors say they are gearing up for this shift. Solar energy, battery storage and renewables also remain top of mind as emerging technologies likely to impact the industry. In the study, electric cars became an emerging theme predicted to influence the industry in coming years.

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. However, what we are seeing compared to previous years, is companies are relying less on a single type of work; gaining strength through breadth and diversity.

Thank you to our 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. I'd also like to thank all the volunteers, staff and stakeholders at Chapter and National levels, for their contribution to the industry broadly.

Here's to every success in 2020 and beyond.

Till next time.



Suresh Manickam
CEO, National Electrical and Communications Association

2020

Electrical Industry Conference

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INDUSTRY CELEBRATES NECA NATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS 2019

The outstanding work of members of the National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) was recognised at the industry's gala dinner in Brisbane on 21 November 2019.

NECA Excellence Awards celebrate the leaders of the electrotechnology industry with the winning projects demonstrating both the expertise and creativity of NECA member companies across a diverse range of categories.

NECA CEO Suresh Manickam acknowledged the calibre of projects this year highlighting the outstanding achievements of all entrants.

"As technologies have evolved so too has the electrical and communications industry. The sophistication of member projects we see year on year push the boundaries of what is possible in solar, battery storage and renewables as well as data communications, IoT and automation".

"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, our Excellence Award winners this evening are delivering exceptional outcomes for their clients and the community at large," he said.

The awards event brings together the winners of all the state and territory Excellence Awards, all with a chance to take out one of the industry's most prestigious awards.



Suresh Manickam, NECA CEO welcomes a full house of 380 industry professionals to the Howard Smith Wharves, Brisbane.



L to R: Farokh Ghadially, Vice President - Power Products & Solutions at Schneider Electric, Simon Rogers, Perigon (Winner of the Commercial Large category for Brisbane Skytower Apartments), Bruce Duff NECA President



The Hon. Steve Irons MP, Assistant Minister for Vocational Education, Training and Apprenticeships shares personal account of his career as a tradie and the government's vision for VET.



2019 NECA Excellence Award winners

MEET 2019 NECA TRADE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Winner of the 2019 Trade Teacher Award is Troy Jezierski. As a teacher at NECA Education & Careers in Victoria, Troy has been instrumental in elevating teaching practice through his role in the development of a blended learning model and guiding new teachers as a mentor through the Pipeline program.

Troy is recognised by his students and peers for his ability to align his

teaching style to the individual needs of each student, simplify complex theories by providing the necessary 'how' and the 'why' behind technical concepts based on real-world experience and importantly, making learning fun.

L to R: David McInnes, Director of NECA Foundation and National Council Member and Queensland Vice President, Troy Jezierski NECA Trade Teacher of the Year, Bruce Duff NECA President



WINNERS: NECA NATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2019		
AWARD CATEGORY	COMPANY	PROJECT
Commercial Large	Perigon	Skytower Apartments
Commercial Medium	NSG BOFFA	Adelaide Botanic High School
Commercial Small	Calibre Electrical Contractors	Wickham Community Hub
Industrial Large	Barnwell Cambridge	AirTrunk SYD1
Industrial Medium	Nilsen [SA]	Cobdogla Pump Station Electrical Upgrade
Industrial Small	C.J.Pearce	Asaleo Care PM3 HV switchgear upgrade
Voice/ Data Communications & Audio	Programmed Electrical Technologies	WSP Brisbane Headquarters
Lighting	Appselec Qld	W Hotel Brisbane
Energy Efficiency & Environment	Shepherd Electrical	Willinga Park Equestrian Centre - Stockyards Powerhouse
WH&S Management System (Company)	Fredon (ACT)	Fredon (ACT)
WH&S Management System (Project)	Programmed Electrical Technologies	WSP Brisbane Headquarters
Small Contracting Business	Brooklyn Trade Services	Small Contracting Excellence
Domestic Residence	Advanced Lifestyle Solutions	Camberwell Residence

COMMENDATIONS: NECA NATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2019		
AWARD CATEGORY	COMPANY	PROJECT
Commercial Large	Stowe Australia	Western Sydney Stadium
Commercial Medium	Prime Electrical & Data Services	Melbourne Conservatorium of Music
Commercial Medium	Stowe Australia	Borallon Training & Correctional Centre Stage 4 Refurbishment Project
Commercial Small	PM Electric	Jaguar Land Rover Mascot
Industrial Medium	Nilsen [Qld]	Ross River Solar Farm
Industrial Small	Fredon [WA] Electrical	RAAF Pearce Flightline Shelters
Energy Efficiency & Environment	Appselec Qld	W Hotel Brisbane
Small Contracting Business	ATS - Australian Technical Services	Standby Generator Student Boarding House
Domestic Residence	Buss and Grigg Electrical Services	King Street

RECOGNISING FUTURE STARS OF THE ELECTROTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY

Some of the industry's best and brightest electrical apprentices were recognised at the NECA industry awards night.

The winners of the NECA National apprentice awards this year – Marek Porter [Tas], Alexander Morisset [SA] and Steven Thomas [SA] were selected from a highly competitive field of exceptional State Apprentice Award winners from across Australia.

"Judging the Apprentice Awards is not easy given the calibre of entrants from across the country," said Suresh Manickam, CEO NECA.

"Well trained, quality apprentices are the future of our industry. It is encouraging to see the innovation and technical excellence demonstrated by these young, vibrant individuals. The demand for electrical skills is only going to increase as we become more reliant on technology," he said. "This is an exciting time to be a part of an industry on the cutting edge of evolving technologies such as battery storage and renewables, IoT and automation."



2019 NECA Apprentice award winners

NECA NATIONAL APPRENTICE AWARDS		
AWARD CATEGORY	WINNER	EMPLOYER & HOST EMPLOYER
Winner - Apprentice Industrial	Marek Porter	NECA Education & Careers & RBD Electrical, Tas
Runner Up - Apprentice Industrial	Elizabeth Dowsett	BHP, WA
Winner - Apprentice Commercial/ Domestic	Alexander Morisset	CME Group, SA
Runner Up - Apprentice Commercial/ Domestic	Jordan Rowland	NECA Electrical Apprenticeships & Green Switch Electrical, Qld
Winner - Apprentice Communications	Steven Thomas	Peer & Apex Communication Technologies Pty Ltd, SA

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS

NECA would like to thank our industry partners for their invaluable contribution to the NECA 2019 National Excellence and Apprentice Awards, and the electrotechnology industry.

“Schneider Electric and Clipsal are again the proud Platinum sponsors of the NECA Excellence Awards,” said Farokh Ghadially, Vice President - Power Products & Solutions at Schneider Electric. “We take great pride in supporting the industry, recognising innovation, efforts and achievements in delivering and executing projects across all Australia.”

“We are pleased to see an acceleration in the digitisation of the Australian electrotechnology industry. Embedding these innovative digital capabilities into products and solutions to deliver increased value to the market, has seen a growing number of contractors and electricians welcoming and embracing this modernisation of our industry.

“While other industries are still moving faster than us in reaping the benefits of digitisation, I am confident we are not far behind,” he said. “I encourage everyone to evaluate the advantages that digitisation can bring to their business; from the creation of new business opportunities aligned with connected solutions and remote management of customer installed bases, to simply improving business efficiency”, he said.

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Steve Hall, General Manager CET, Peta O'Day, Administration Manager CET and Anne Driscoll, Director General, Department of Training and Workforce Development

NECA RECOGNISED FOR SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION

NECA is currently responsible for the employment, training and skilling of more than 4,800 current and future electricians and contractors through its various training and educational programs, and has maintained over 90% completion rates across its training facilities.

The College of Electrical Training [CET] was recognised at the 2019 WA Training Awards for its work in actively reducing barriers for female school students to undertake apprenticeships and boost female representation in the industry. CET won the WA Industry Collaboration Award with NECA Western Australia members for its Electrical Industry Female Participation Program [EIFPP], which offers WA's first all-female school-based pre-apprenticeship course for electrotechnology, with structured career pathways into the industry.

NECA Electrical Apprenticeships was named winner of the Excellence in Group Training category at the 2019 Apprentice Employment Network NSW & ACT awards.

This is the major organisation award and was presented in recognition of NECA EA's efforts to improve diversity within the electrical contracting industry. The suite of highly-targeted programs are providing a diverse, resilient, skilled and adaptable group of Apprentices to meet industry's current and future needs.

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