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Media Release

NECA urges the new PM to action

NECA, the peak body for the electrotechnology sector congratulates Scott Morrison on his appointment as Prime Minister of Australia and calls on his Government to address key issues for electrotechnology contractors and small businesses to deliver a supportive and stable environment that encourages job growth and lifts national productivity and competitiveness.

NECA would like to see priority given to a range of issues currently facing Australian businesses, endangering economic growth and driving up the cost of living. We encourage the new Prime Minister to focus on:

1. **Energy**
Revisit this critical policy area and to provide certainty for businesses to investment, which should in turn reduce energy costs for Australians.

Invest in the development and awareness of energy efficiency programs and clean energy initiatives, providing greater certainty to encourage long-term investment in the sector and consumer take up of energy efficient systems such as solar panels and battery storage.
2. **Tax**
Implement the tax cuts for small, medium and family businesses which have already been passed by Parliament and provide other support and concessions such as the reduction and eventual phasing out of payroll tax and incentives for the employment of mature age apprentices.
3. **Workplace Relations**
Deliver a framework that is fair to both the employee and employer delivering greater flexibility and efficiency, provides greater freedom of choice for both employees and employers and preserves the rights and role of independent contractors.
4. **Skills and Education**
Address the shortage of trade apprentices by improving the quality of vocational education and training provided in schools and actively promoting the benefits of a trade career path. There is also an urgent need to uniformly adopt and access the Skilling Australia Fund.
5. **Infrastructure**
Continue to invest in transport, communications and energy development projects which are the key to creating jobs across Australia, removing infrastructure bottlenecks and boosting economic growth via projects that are planned and built over many years.

“If actioned by the Morrison Government, NECA believes these recommendations will deliver a more prosperous electrical and communications sector, create new employment and address the current shortage of well qualified electrical trades, said Suresh Manickam CEO NECA.

“NECA encourages the Government to waste no time in addressing these key issues for NECA members and the broader building and construction industry,” he added.

-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 over 5,300 contracting companies with over 50,000 employees.*
- 3. NECA wholly-owns Registered Training Organisations and Group Training Organisations in NSW, VIC & WA, the EcoSmart Electricians initiative, ACRS (a national cabling registrar) and has a joint venture with NESS Super in NSW.*
- 4. NECA employs around 2,000 apprentice electricians, training a further 2,000.*