

Electrotechnology IRC

NECA response to AIS Key Findings Discussion Paper

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28 February 2018

Mr Jason Lazar
Industry Manager
Australian Industry Standards
PO Box 587
SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC 3205

Dear Mr Lazar,

Re: Electrotechnology IRC Skills Forecast Key Findings Discussion Paper

Thank you again for the extension of time granted to comment upon the key findings found within the Australian Industry Standards (AIS) Electrotechnology IRC discussion paper.

The National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) is the peak industry body for Australia's electrical and communications contracting industry. We represent more than 5,000 electrical contracting businesses across Australia's states and territories and employ more than 165,000 workers that deliver an annual turnover in excess of \$23 billion. We also maintain responsibility for the employment, training and skilling of more than 4,800 current and future electricians through our Group Training and Registered Training Organisations.

I write to express our concerns with the stakeholder engagement process used to construct the discussion paper. We believe that a more robust and thorough engagement process would have better enabled critical industry issues to be canvassed and addressed. These issues include, but are not limited to:

- The diversification of new entrants (gender, age etc.)
- The consideration and treatment of qualified electrical engineers within the IRCs scope of Training Packages.
- A broader consideration of the benefits of current licensing systems
- Relevant drivers/incentives in relation to VET vs University funding
- A focus on the promotion of trades as a genuine career path at schools
- Any disconnect (real or perceived) in relation to STEM ready students and their entry into VET.

NECA is strongly of the view that the consultation process should be re-opened with key stakeholders notified in order to accurately and robustly ascertain the environment in which our sector operates as well as make recommendations that will improve our sector into the future.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond and I look forward to your quick response.

Yours faithfully



Suresh Manickam
Chief Executive Officer
National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA)