

A word from the CEO

Summer is now upon us and as 2016 draws to a close, it's timely to reflect on the year that's past, the issues that continue to face the electrical contracting sector and what we can expect for 2017.

As you may be aware, NECA has been calling on the Senate to ratify two pieces of legislation that we believe will benefit Australia's electrical contractors – the re-introduction of the Australian Building and Construction Commission and the establishment of the Registered Organisations Commission. NECA believes that both measures would deliver a range of benefits for our sector such as lower levels of industrial action and lost work days, increased transparency and governance through stronger regulatory oversight and standards for public officers, increased penalties for engagement in coercion and unlawful behaviour, lower construction costs and ultimately, more jobs.

Similarly, reform of the Vocational Education and Training sector has been another key theme for NECA. Sadly, we have all heard and read about the stories and scandals that have plagued the quality of VET training and the failures of policy that has led to concerns with the VET FEE-HELP and training colleges signing up students with offers of free laptops. The future role of the Australian Skills and Qualifications Authority in overseeing the training standards and quality remains critical and we look forward to further announcements from the Government that help to restore credibility and confidence.

Apprenticeship training has always been a key part of NECA's DNA and following on from our successful work last year with the Energy Industry Apprentice Progression Management System Project, the Federal Government has announced the establishment of the alternative delivery pilots program to further support the delivery of entry level and qualified trades people into the labour market. The pilots are designed to learn more about opportunities and barriers



to increased industry usage, enhance skills development and the acceptance and validation of alternative apprenticeship training delivery arrangements. NECA has been selected by the Government to deliver this program on behalf of the electrical and communications sector. Further information about the program can be found at <https://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/alt-del-pilots>

An important part of our ongoing advocacy work with the Federal Government was the release of our 2016 Policy Statement in June. Whilst this may seem like a particularly dry part of what we do, I believe it's important for any member-focussed organisation to be advocating and articulating the concerns and views of its members. Our statement refreshes and builds upon last year's initial version, adding new policy themes including Renewable Energy, Security of Payments, Building and Contents Insurance, Competency Based Wage Progression and Home Safety and Energy Audits. NECA's 2016 Policy Statement may be viewed at <http://neca.asn.au/content/our-policies>.

In July, the Tasmanian Government introduced Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for occupational license holders, meaning that Electrical Contractors are now required to maintain and develop their skills through ongoing learning activities. The Government has allowed

an initial two-year window for licensees to familiarise themselves with the CPD scheme. During this time, licensees will be required to familiarise themselves with the scheme and undertake further CPD course studies but will not have to accrue any CPD points. Once the CPD scheme comes into full effect from 1 July 2018, licensees will need to accrue 12 CPD points per annum or 36 CPD points (on the basis of one point, per hour over a three-year licence).

NECA has worked closely with the Tasmanian Government to finalise the details of the CPD scheme and as the peak industry body for the state's electrical contractors, was selected as the Facilitator for the delivery of the program. The CPD scheme was launched in Launceston and Hobart by the Minister for Building and Construction, the Hon. Guy Barnett MP and provides Tasmania's electrical contractors with a strong opportunity to strengthen their skills and activities across the state. For more information about the Tasmanian CPD scheme for electrical contractors, please visit http://neca.asn.au/tas/tas_home

Following our very successful South African conference, NECA is pleased to advise that we will be celebrating our Centenary conference back on home soil, at the Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas Resort in Tropical North Queensland from July 14 to 17. The 100 year event will be another great opportunity to learn more about our industry and to network with fellow representatives, members and supporters, right on the doorstep of one the seven wonders of the natural world, the Great Barrier Reef, and the Daintree Rainforest - Australia's largest continuous area of tropical rainforest. NECA will have further details for this event in the not too distant future and I am looking forward to seeing you in Tropical North Queensland next July. ■

Best regards,
Suresh Manickam

The electrical contracting industry biennial research, 2017 study

As we go to print the Market Monitor 2017 questionnaire is being finalised, and will be available on NECA's website www.neca.asn.au from mid-December 2016 through to mid-February 2017.

Given the overwhelming support we had from the industry in making this an online study, 2017 will follow the same format. But to make it even easier for you we will break it down into three, or possibly four, modules. That way you can do each module separately if that's easier for you timewise, and we will prompt you to continue in order that we get

your complete feedback. Again as with the last study, Market Monitor is open to business owners, business administrators/purchase officers, employed qualified electricians and apprentices. And you don't have to be a NECA member to participate.

In 2015 we had over 1,500 responses and some very interesting findings. Based on feedback from respondents in 2015, and the broader industry, the next study will focus on:

- industry trends
- the purchasing process

- price v quality
- the role of digital and online
- non-compliant products
- specialisations and training needs
- better understanding the next generation (including apprentices)
- better understanding the end-user/consumer.

All respondents will be invited to go into a draw with 10 great prizes! So do check the NECA website or any of the four national wholesalers' websites (MEMEM, L&H, Rexel or CNW) to enter.

Finalists for the 2016 National Excellence Awards in Canberra

Here are the 2016 state winners, and by the time you receive your copy of Electrical Connection we will have our 11 category winners – who will be profiled in the next issue.

Absolute Cabling Systems

Voice/Data (ACT)

Affinity Electrical Technologies

Domestic Residence (ACT)

Argus Technologies Pty Ltd

Domestic Residence (VIC)

Austin Power Enterprises

Small Contracting Business (WA)

Automated Innovation

Small Contracting Business (NSW)

Barnwell Cambridge Pty Ltd

Commercial – Medium Project (NSW)

Baylec Electrical Pty Ltd

Domestic Residence (QLD)

Blue Star Pacific Pty Ltd

Lighting (QLD)

Commercial – Small Project (QLD)

Commercial – Medium Project (QLD)

BREC

Commercial - Small Project (VIC)

C.J. Pearce

Industrial – Small Project (VIC)

Contact Group

Commercial – Medium Project (TAS)

Cousins Electrics

Domestic Residence (WA)

CPS National

Energy Efficiency & Environment (WA)

Deacam Pty Ltd

Energy Efficiency & Environment (VIC)

Degree C

Commercial – Small Project (TAS)

DESA Australia

Voice/Data (NSW)

Commercial – Medium Project (VIC)

Downer

Industrial – Medium Project (WA)

Industrial – Large Project (WA)

Commercial – Large Project (VIC)

EMU Energy

Small Contracting Business (ACT)

Fredon

Commercial – Medium Project (ACT)

Energy Efficiency & Environment (QLD)

Industrial – Medium Project (QLD)

Commercial – Medium Project (WA)

Gordon McKay Pty Ltd

Lighting (VIC)

Industrial – Medium Project (VIC)

Heyday Group

Lighting (NSW)

Commercial – Large Project (NSW)

Insight Electrical Technology

Commercial - Small Project (WA)

Kerfoot

Industrial – Small Project (NSW)

Commercial – Small Project (NSW)

Klimate Solutions

Energy Efficiency & Environment (TAS)

Industrial - Small Project (TAS)

Voice/Data (TAS)

Mainpower Electrics Pty Ltd

Domestic Residence (NSW)

Martin Donnelly

Energy Efficiency & Environment (ACT)

MGC Solutions

Voice/Data (WA)

MIMP Connecting Solutions

Voice Data (SA)

Network Electrical Solutions

Commercial – Small Project (ACT)

Nilsen

Commercial – Large Project (QLD)

Industrial – Small Project (WA)

Commercial – Large Project (WA)

PJ O'Connor Electrical Pty Ltd

Industrial – Medium Project (SA)

Programmed Electrical Technologies

Energy Efficiency & Environment (SA)

Commercial – Small Project (SA)

Voice/Data (VIC, QLD)

RBD Electrical & Instrumentation

Industrial – Medium Project (TAS)

Recips

Small Contracting Business (VIC)

Shepherd Electrical

Commercial – Large Project (ACT)

Lighting (ACT)

Industrial – Small Project (ACT)

Industrial – Medium Project (ACT)

Star Group

Energy Efficiency & Environment (NSW)

Tyrone Electrical Services

Commercial – Medium Project (SA)

ACRS holds rate as competitors increase



The Australian Cabler Registration Service (ACRS) is a not-for-profit organisation owned by NECA. It was formed to provide registration services to electrical contractors undertaking communications cabling work across Australia. ACRS is accredited by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).

We understand that most contractors are inundated with paperwork and so we strive to make the registration process as simple and efficient as possible. ACRS is proud to provide a high-quality registration service to cablers at a lower cost than our four registrar competitors. Plus we provide a regular industry newsletter and member updates.

To qualify for registration, applicants need to meet the current ACMA competency requirements.

Full details can be emailed or posted upon request and are available on the ACRS website.

NBN requirements

Anyone working on the NBN network must be accredited prior to commencing work. NBN accreditation requirements for

undertaking work on its HFC network will also require that people hold an open registration with two additional competencies: Structured and Coaxial. Accreditation can be verified by scanning the registration card and sending to the NBN portal: <https://enable.nbnco.com.au/default.aspx>.

For experienced cablers with OPEN CPR qualifications there may also be a requirement for industry-recognised specialised competency units. This was mandated by the ACMA in July 2014 for cabling work that

involves one of the specialised skills. ACRS can provide a list of training providers who offer competency based training, and once qualification and assessing is completed cablers will be provided with a Statement of Attainment.

Registered cablers can also add a specialised competency or upgrade their registration at renewal time, at no extra cost.

For more information call the ACRS hotline on 1300 667771 or email: enquiries@acrs.com.au



caps

Tasmania introduces Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for Electrical Contractors

The Tasmanian Government has taken the bold move of introducing Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for Building Practitioners and Occupational Licence Holders, including the state's Electrical Contractors. The initiative commenced on July 1st this year, and thereby requires Electrical Contractors operating in Tasmania to maintain and develop their skills through ongoing learning. This learning may relate to technical and practical skills, business competencies, laws affecting the industry or personal and professional development.

The Government has allowed an initial, two-year window for licensees to familiarise themselves with the CPD scheme. During this time, licensees will be required to familiarise themselves with the scheme and undertake further CPD course studies but will not have to accrue any CPD points.

Once the CPD scheme comes into full effect from 1 July 2018, licensees will need to accrue 12 CPD points per annum or 36 CPD points (on the basis of one point, per hour over a 3 year licence). From this time,

Electrical Contractors will need to report their CPD when they apply to renew their licence. Licenses will not be renewed without the satisfactory accrual of CPD points.

NECA is assisting the Tasmanian Government in finalising the details of the CPD scheme and, as the peak industry body for the state's electrical contractors, has been selected as the Facilitator for the delivery of the program.

For more information about the Tasmanian CPD scheme for electrical contractors, please visit http://neca.asn.au/tas/tas_home



national
electrical and
communications
association



Celebrating 100 years and beyond...

Over the next 12 months we will be celebrating our centenary. Our first chapter opened its doors to members in 1916, in Victoria. And the first President was appointed in 1917. Over the next two decades we opened our doors to members in all states and territories across Australia.

Our celebrations officially kick-off on 1 July – as we head into a new financial year, and the first major event will be the Victorian Excellence Awards.

The story of NECA's evolution has been captured in a wonderful book written by Brian Seymour – a NECA Life Member, and prolific writer on industry developments. It charts our history and reminds us of just how much has changed over the past century. We are very proud of our history and our contribution to the industry. And we look forward to the next 100 years with great anticipation.

We hope you will join us in our celebrations over the next 12 months – which will culminate with our 2017 Industry Conference Gala Dinner.



To find out more visit www.neca.asn.au/100years

NECA ACT

Ph: (02) 6280 5580

NECA NSW

Ph: (02) 9744 1099

NECA QLD

Ph: 07 3276 7950

NECA SA/NT

Ph: (08) 8272 2966

NECA TAS

Ph: (03) 6234 3464

NECA VIC

Ph: (03) 9645 5533

NECA WA

Ph: (08) 6241 6100

NECA NATIONAL

Ph: (02) 9439 8523