



national
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communications
association

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Mr Paul Douglas
Office of Industrial Relations
QLeave Levies Review

Dear Paul,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Office of Industrial Relations Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement on Proposed changes to QLeave levies.

The National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) is the peak industry body for Australia's electrical and communications contracting industry. NECA represents more than 5,500 electrical contracting businesses, employing over 100,000 people across all Australian states and territories. Through its subsidiary company, the Australian Cabling Registration Service (ACRS) it also represents more than 26,000 telecommunications cablers. NECA itself employs almost 350 people across its seven chapters (Queensland, New South Wales, ACT, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia) and with our partner Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) and Group Training Organisations (GTOs) NECA also provides employment and skills development for approximately 4,800 apprentices across Australia.

NECA is **opposed** to any changes to the existing levies established under the *Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 1991* and the *Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Regulation 2013*. NECA considers that the changes introduced from 1 July 2014 were structurally sound and they provided support for business development and improved job creation.

As stated in the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) "the QLeave 2017-18 annual report shows that the scheme is currently financially sound." NECA also considers that any moves to increase the current levies would be counter-productive to job creation and it would add unnecessary additional costs on businesses which would increase project costs and ultimately be borne by consumers.

In regards to the proposal to increase the WHS levy to fund specific suicide prevention strategies, NECA would also be opposed. While NECA supports workplace health and safety measures, including suicide prevention strategies, as being fundamental to the electrical contracting industry, NECA notes that the existing money collected by the WHS levy is paid into the Governments consolidated fund. NECA considers it is therefore incumbent on the Government to dedicate a component part of the monies already collected through the WHS levy to be paid directly to Workplace Health and Safety Queensland for priority health and safety strategies, such as suicide prevention.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Your sincerely

Peter Lamont
Executive Director

