

Preliminary Queensland Government Response to the Final Report of the 2021 Review of Queensland's Electrical Safety Act 2002

May 2023

Electrical safety is a key priority for the Palaszczuk Government.

The *Electrical Safety Act 2002* (the Act) was introduced over 20 years ago. In this time the way Queenslanders use and interact with electricity has changed dramatically – with many new technologies and products on the market now that were not imagined in 2002.

The *2021 Review of Queensland's Electrical Safety Act 2002* (the Review) had a particular focus on new and emerging technologies. The Review considered the Act's purpose, regulation-making powers, definitions, duties and requirements and relationship with contemporary work health and safety legislation, as well as industry and worker representative views on enhancements.

The Review's Final Report represents a comprehensive report into the Act, making 83 recommendations. The recommendations deal with issues ranging from the scope of the Act and coverage of emerging energy generation and storage technologies, including solar power and batteries; electric vehicles; hydrogen-based electricity generation; storage technologies; off-grid generation; and regulatory, licensing, and supply chain duties reform.

Government's approach to consideration of the recommendations

The Queensland Government is committed to working through the Review's 83 recommendations in an evidence-based process with business, workers and the community. This will allow careful assessment of the case for change, including potential costs and impacts and best approaches to legislative change. It is critical that any legislative changes provide genuine improvements to safety outcomes and that the impacts from such change are proportionate to risk.

To this end, the Palaszczuk Government is releasing the report and asking for feedback from all Queenslanders. This includes the identification of a number of recommendations for targeted consideration through a Discussion Paper. The Discussion Paper invites individuals, business, industry and the community to comment on options developed by Government for recommendations related to:

- electrical safety considerations of new and emerging technologies (recommendations 1, 4 and 13 (part))
- changing landscape of electricity and the workforce (recommendations 5, 6, 7 and 17(a) and (c)); and
- electrical safety and electric vehicles (recommendations 2, 8 and 74(c)).

These key focus areas of the Review represent the most pressing concerns for technological change in the electrical safety framework, as well as being fundamental to consideration of the Review's remaining recommendations.

While the Discussion Paper focuses on three key topics, feedback from individuals, business, industry and the community on all of the Review's recommendations is strongly encouraged. This feedback will inform Government's ongoing consideration of the remaining recommendations, with an update on the remaining recommendations to be provided following consultation.

Feedback on the Discussion Paper is sought from 16 May to 27 June, 2023, while feedback on all other issues will be open through to 15 August, 2023.