



Lead.**Connect.**

Business licensing review

Western Australia



Business Licensing Review

Master Electricians Australia (MEA) is the trade association representing electrical contractors recognised by industry, government and the community as the electrical industry's leading business partner, knowledge source and advocate. Our website is www.masterelectricians.com.au.

Master Electricians appreciates the opportunity to comment on the discussion paper for proposed changes to the Business Licensing Review. Master Electricians, in reviewing the document, has done so based on the experience of what an electrical contractor and/or consumer may experience.

In many states it is becoming more apparent that technology is being used to ensure data is only required once. This has evolved into services of "one stop shops" and single point of entry. Data management is key and requires a tailored solution.

Business licenses should also be enablers and not barriers to participate in an industry. While we acknowledge dangerous industries need stricter controls national industries need seamless recognition of skill and trading history from other states. License process should recognise this as a priority.

Electrical Contractors Licensing

In Western Australia the requirements for Electrical Contractors Licensing are extensive, expensive and are a significant barrier to enter the industry. There is also limited dispensation for recognising other state's contractor licenses or recognition of established businesses from other states. These combination of factors leads to a system that may be seen as diminishing industry productivity, adding costs unnecessarily to projects and may be seen as a form of protectionism.

In summary the costs and process involved are:

- Application fee \$104
- Annual License fee \$500
- Contractors Course fee \$2,180 (TAFE fee)
- Days Attendance at course 5-14days \$12,000 (Opportunity lost cost of \$100 per hour for 8 hours a day. This cost may be increased as some course are delivered via electronic means over a 6-month period whereas others are a 14 day duration.

	WA	NSW	Qld	Vic	SA
Application	\$104	\$158	\$0	\$0	\$0
License fee	\$500	\$487	\$374.10	\$117.6	\$818
Course fee	\$2,180	\$0	\$1,000.00	\$300	\$550
Days Attended	5-14	0	2-3 days	5 hours	2 Days

For Comparison all license costs compared are for Corporation/PTY Ltd for a 1-year license, all others are per application. Many states recognise other State's Contractors license in full however may have additional requirements such as insurance requirements that must be met.

It is our view that the current process for recognising interstate contractor licenses etc should be examined and that changes instigated that maintain the integrity of the current license but increase productivity and reduce red tape; and therefore cost for industry.

Topics such as:

- Renewal periods
- Cost/benefit of current course requirements vs recognition of interstate license
- Cost, length and recognition of prior learning by providers in the conducting of the course
- Lost opportunity costs and barrier to enter the industry which reduces competition without, what appears to be, a demonstrated benefit to the industry.

MEA looks forward to the opportunity to further discuss and highlight these issue with the Department over the coming period.



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