

26 September 2025

Competition Taskforce
The Treasury
Langton Crescent
PARKES ACT 2600

Via email: CompetitionTaskforce@treasury.gov.au

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Development of a National Licensing Scheme for Electrical Occupations

Standards Australia (SA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on Treasury's proposal for a national licensing scheme for electrical occupations. As Australia's peak national standards body (NSB), SA develops specifications and procedures to ensure products and services are safe, compatible and benefit the Australian community. This is particularly important in the quickly developing electrotechnology sector.

SA supports the Government's plan to work with states, territories, businesses and unions to ensure key stakeholders are consulted on a scheme that will cut red tape, promote labour mobility and remove unnecessary barriers for electrical trades people. Harmonised standards under a national licensing scheme can also improve compliance and efficiency by removing the need for electrical trades people to understand their obligations in various jurisdictions. More consistency in both licensing requirements and regulation will ensure alignment with Australian Standards and best practice to ensure public safety, consumer confidence and technical integrity.

As Australia's representative to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), SA plays a key role in facilitating the development and adoption of internationally aligned standards. All standards developed or endorsed by SA are designed to be nationally harmonised, to support consistent application across all Australian jurisdictions. These standards are not state-specific; rather, they provide a unified technical framework that supports safety, quality, and interoperability nationwide.

By establishing common benchmarks for electrical work—such as those found in *AS/NZS 3000 Electrical Installations*, *AS/NZS 3017 Electrical Installations – Testing and Inspection*; and *AS/NZS 4836: Safe Working on Low Voltage Electrical Installations*, SA ensures that practitioners, regulators, and educators operate with a shared understanding, regardless of location. A national licensing scheme presents a timely opportunity to align regulatory requirements with these standards, reinforcing consistency and reducing fragmentation across the sector.

Without national standardisation, those in electrical trades will continue to apply for multiple licences and pay additional costs to work interstate. This creates anti-competitive labour mobility across state and territory jurisdictions which reduces sector productivity. Providing a consistent technical framework of standards will reduce duplication, minimise regulatory divergence, and

simplify procurement and compliance processes for businesses operating across state borders. Manufacturers, suppliers, and contractors can operate with greater certainty and reduced administrative burden when products, services, and qualifications are aligned to nationally recognise standards. This consistency supports economies of scale, fosters innovation, and enhances Australia's competitiveness in both domestic and international markets.

Further, embracing the use of modern technologies will enhance scheme usability. To achieve this, SA is supportive of the development of a national digital licensing register that incorporates standards references, facilitates real-time updates to requirements, and improves regulatory oversight.

Standards Australia also strongly advocates for the establishment of a model for subsidised access to standards for licensed practitioners, delivered through a partnership between SA, industry and government. By providing licensed professionals with subsidised, tailored, role-specific access to the most current and relevant standards, this model would not only support better on-site decision-making but also reinforce a culture of accountability and continual learning. It ensures that those responsible for critical electrical work are empowered with the tools they need to meet regulatory obligations, uphold public safety, and drive industry excellence and productivity. As an opportunity we are already exploring with our construction industry peers and aligned with our broader mission to make standards more accessible and impactful, this model would create a more connected, compliant, and future-ready electrical workforce nationwide.

SA supports the establishment of a national advisory body to underpin governance of the scheme. The body should comprise of state and territory regulators, unions, industry peak bodies, as well as other relevant bodies including SA as Australia's NSB. This body should be tasked with overseeing harmonisation efforts, resolving interjurisdictional differences, and ensuring the scheme remains up to date and relevant to technological change in the industry.

Finally, training pathways should be underpinned by standards-based competencies to ensure consistency and quality across jurisdictions. To ensure this, SA supports the harmonisation of apprenticeship frameworks, capstone assessments, and continuing professional development (CPD) requirements. Additionally, we stand ready to assist with national training platforms that are matched to relevant standards.

SA is committed to supporting the development of a national licensing scheme that is safe, efficient and future-ready. SA supports Option 3 as the most appropriate model, with a hybrid approach allowing industry to reap the rewards of national licensing sooner rather than later.

SA thanks Treasury for the opportunity to provide comment on the initial proposal and looks forward to engaging further on the final scheme design.

Yours sincerely,

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