



Kevin Rudd

PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

Allen Hicks
National Secretary
Electrical Trades Union
PO Box 380, Rosebery
NSW 2018

Dear Allen,

After reviewing the COAG National Licensing Steering Committee's Decision Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for electrical occupations the Rudd Government recognises concerns raised by industry stakeholders.

The Rudd Government understands the concerns raised that the RIS contains insufficient expert and empirical evidence of the role of electrical licensing standards on minimising adverse occupational and public safety outcomes.

The Rudd Government does not condone changes to electrical safety regulations that will increase the cost of regulation and decrease community safety.

The Rudd Government remains committed to national occupational licensing reform and we want to save tradies millions in additional fees by doing away with multiple licences for people who want to work in more than one state or territory.

We will not however agree to any National Occupational Licensing reform that dilutes existing electrical, plumbing, mechanical, refrigeration or fire protection services licenses and that may compromise community safety and consumer protection.

The Rudd Government acknowledges the advice from the National Occupational Licensing Authority to the SCFFR. This advice was developed after consultation with key industry stakeholders who made up the interim Occupational Licensing advisory committees.

The recommendations as set out in that advice will form the basis of the National Occupational licensing reform.

We will continue to consult with the CEPU, its members and industry to ensure we get the plans for national licensing right before they are implemented.

I would like to reassure you the Rudd Government will only proceed with changes to occupational licensing if there is agreement reached with key industry stakeholders including the CEPU, relevant employer associations and industry skills councils.

Finally, I note that communications of the National Occupational Licensing Board do not represent final or agreed policy of the Federal government nor the final advice that will go to Treasurers who are members of the Standing Council on Federal Financial Relations.

Only Labor can be trusted to look after the interests of hard working CEPU members and their families.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Rudd".

Kevin Rudd
Prime Minister