

Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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Submitted by:	Motor Trades Association of Queensland
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SUBMISSION

14 June 2024

Committee Secretary
Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

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Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Purpose

The purpose of this submission is to provide the Motor Trades Association of Queensland's position in relation to the *Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024*.

Background

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland contributed to detailed discussions regarding the Review into the Electrical Safety Act (2002) throughout 2023. This included the development of a submission into the Review that was submitted to the Queensland Government in June 2023.

A contentious issue regarding the review from the automotive industry viewpoint was found in Recommendation 8, which stated:

For electric vehicles (or parts thereof) falling within the definition of "electrical equipment" (see Recommendations 2 and 4), consider requiring:

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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- a. *appropriately licensed electrical workers to carry out the electrical work on the electrical components when the vehicle is serviced and or repaired, to ensure the safety of owners/operators and community; and*
- b. *appropriately licensed electrical workers carry out the electrical work on the electrical components of the vehicle when an electric vehicle requires on-road breakdown work to ensure safety of owners/operators, the community and first responders.*

Following extensive consultation throughout 2023, the Queensland Government stated in its Response to the Review of Queensland's Electrical Safety Act 2002, published in January 2024, that it will not implement Recommendation 8 as proposed and that further consideration of how to maintain and improve electrical safety in the context of electric vehicles will occur through a roundtable who will liaise with the Commonwealth and other Australian jurisdictions.

Information the Motor Trades Association of Queensland received from the Office of Industrial Relations, Electrical Safety Office in May 2024 committed to further consultation on future requirements for undertaking work on electric vehicles, though it was agreed that the responsibility for work on electric vehicles would rest with qualified automotive technicians.

Issues

The *Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024* will introduce new technologies into the scope of the Legislation, including electric vehicles.

It is proposed in the *Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024* that electric vehicles be included in the Act through Clause 5, which outlines the inclusion of electric vehicles as 'electrical equipment'.

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland requires clarity from the Queensland Government that this clause relates to the capacity of the Government to regulate work on electric vehicles and is not an indicator of who will be authorised to undertake legal work activities on electric vehicles.

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland contends that service and repair work on electric vehicles must remain the responsibility of automotive technicians.

Recommendation

The issues raised in this submission are acknowledged and the Queensland Government commits to continuing to engage with the Motor Trades Association of Queensland on the Bill and future Legislation and Regulation that may impact on the repairing and servicing of electric vehicles.

Yours sincerely


Rod Camm
Group Chief Executive Officer

Motor Trades Association of Queensland

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ENDS

For more information:

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Background:

The Motor Trades Association of Queensland (**MTA Queensland**) is the peak body representing the interests of employers in the retail, repair, and service sectors of Queensland's automotive industry. MTA Queensland has been performing its vital representative role for the automotive industry since 1929. In Queensland there are some 16,000 automotive businesses employing more than 90,000 people, that generate more than \$7.24 billion to the state economy annually. The automotive industry is estimated to contribute \$37 billion to the Australian economy each year. The Association represents and promotes issues of relevance to all levels of government. In 2019 MTA Queensland was announced as an ABA100 winner in The Australian Business Awards and a finalist in the Lord Mayor's Business Awards, for Business Innovation.

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