



Ms Di Farmer, MP
Chair, Finance and Administration Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
23 June 2015

Dear Ms Farmer,

Re: Inquiry into Work Health & Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

In response to your letter seeking further information about any incidents or evidence to suggest that the removal of the Commissioner for Electrical Safety has been detrimental to the industry, while the Union is strongly of the view that the removal of the Commissioner's position had a negative impact on safety in the electrical industry I am unable to provide that information.

When the Electrical Safety Act 2002 was enacted it was to respond to the high number of electrical fatalities in Qld. The position of Commissioner for Electrical Safety was an independent statutory office, whose responsibility included providing advice to the relevant Minister. The existence of that position also ensured that the Electrical Safety office continued to work as a stand-alone office.

When the Electrical Safety Commissioner was removed along with the two Committees (Education and Equipment), and the restructure of the Electrical Safety Board, this independence was reduced.

Further, the Electrical Safety Board has responsibility to develop the strategic plan for the Electrical Safety Office. The abolition of the Commissioner's position left a void in communication between the Board and the Electrical Safety Office.

The Union would welcome the opportunity to send a representative to come and talk to you and/or the Committee if you seek further information.

Yours sincerely,



Keith McKenzie
DEPUTY DIVISIONAL BRANCH SECRETARY

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