



Lead.Connect.

1 October 2015

Research Director
Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Sent via email to: usic@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Master Electricians Australia appreciates the opportunity to contribute a submission to the inquiry concerning the Energy and Water Ombudsman Amendment Bill 2015.

Master Electricians Australia (MEA) is a dynamic and modern trade association representing electrical contractors. A driving force in the electrical industry and a major factor in the continued success and security of electrical contractors, MEA is recognised by industry, government and the community as the electrical industry's leading business partner, knowledge source and advocate. The organisation's website is: www.masterelectricians.com.au.

We only wish to comment on the amendments to extend access to the Energy and Water Ombudsman for small business customers using between 100 and 160 megawatt hours of electricity per year.

As an organisation representing electrical contractors, the majority of whom are running small businesses, we support any initiatives that will ease the regulatory, administrative and financial burdens felt by small business owners in all sectors of the economy. Allowing high energy-using small businesses to access the services of the EWOQ is an initiative supported by MEA. Escalating electricity bills are an ongoing concern for small business. Having to dispute a bill is just an added expense that small businesses are in no position to outlay when the outcome is not guaranteed to be in their favour. Ready access to the expertise of EWOQ will be an invaluable support measure that is sure to encourage small businesses to pursue their rights.

However, we believe that restricting the amendment to small business customers using between 100 and 160 megawatt hours of electricity per year would unnecessarily exclude many small businesses from the changes. We recommend an extension of the amendment to small business customers using between 100MWh and 4GWh to align with distributor (Energyx/Ergon) network tariff structures.

T: 1300 889 198 F: 1800 622 914
PO Box 2438, Fortitude Valley, QLD 4006
info@masterelectricians.com.au
masterelectricians.com.au

Queensland Level 2, 57 Berwick St, Fortitude Valley, QLD 4006
New South Wales Suite 4, Level 3, 100 George St, Parramatta, NSW 2150
Victoria Level 1, 20A, 75 Lorimer St, South Wharf, VIC 3006
South Australia 4A Northcote St, Torrensville, SA 5031
Western Australia Unit B2, 20 Tarlton Cr, Perth Airport, WA 6105



Lead.Connect.

Overall, we are pleased that the Queensland government continues to recognise the importance of small business to the state's economy through legislative initiatives of this nature. MEA welcomes further measures to ensure the growth of the small businesses in Queensland.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Veenstra
State Manager - Queensland

T: 1300 889 198 F: 1800 622 914
PO Box 2438, Fortitude Valley, QLD 4006
info@masterelectricians.com.au
masterelectricians.com.au

Queensland Level 2, 57 Berwick St, Fortitude Valley, QLD 4006
New South Wales Suite 4, Level 3, 100 George St, Parramatta, NSW 2150
Victoria Level 1, 20A, 75 Lorimer St, South Wharf, VIC 3006
South Australia 4A Northcote St, Torrensville, SA 5031
Western Australia Unit B2, 20 Tarlton Cr, Perth Airport, WA 6105