



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2023

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Electrical Safety**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.07 am): Electrical safety is an issue which affects all Queenslanders. That is why it is a key priority for the Palaszczuk government. We were reminded last week of how dangerous electricity can be with the tragic death of a 50-year-old man who cut through an electrical cable on his property north of Mackay. I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Over the last 20 years since the Electrical Safety Act was introduced, the way Queenslanders have used and interacted with electricity has changed dramatically with many new technologies and products on the market now that could not be imagined in 2002. That is why we commissioned an independent review of the act undertaken by Mr Dick Williams.

As you would expect after two decades, the review report is extremely thorough and detailed. It contained 83 recommendations that were broad-ranging, complex and technical, covering the full gamut of electrical safety. They look at emerging energy generation and storage technologies including solar panels and batteries, electric vehicles, hydrogen-based electricity generation, storage technologies, off-grid generation and regulatory, licensing and supply chain duties reform.

The Office of Industrial Relations has undertaken careful analysis of these and has identified that, if implemented in full, they could have a significant impact across business, government and the community, so we want to make sure we get it right. That is why the Palaszczuk government has decided to release the full report for feedback from employer groups from businesses, unions, workers and the community so that we can fully understand the impact of the recommendations before we make any policy decisions.

Through a targeted discussion paper we are seeking priority feedback on three key topics by 27 June: electrical safety considerations of new and emerging technologies, the changing landscape of electricity and the workforce, and electrical vehicle safety. Feedback on the remaining recommendations will be open until 15 August.

It is imperative that these changes ensure Queenslanders are electrically safe now and into the future. I encourage all stakeholders and Queenslanders to log on and have their say. While they are online, they can check out our excellent Wiggles electrical safety song. I am pleased to advise the House now—and contrary to public view I am not the pink Wiggle; that is not true—the song clip has had more than 2.2 million views.