

Electrical Safety Plan for Queensland 2018-2022

Vision

Prevention of death, injury and destruction of property caused by electricity.

Electrical Safety Board



Purpose

Lead and enable all aspects of electrical safety in Queensland, as technology, workforce, skills and community expectations change.



Activities

- Policy and legislative advice
- Safety leadership
- Stakeholder engagement



Values

- Trusted leaders in electrical safety
- Strong electrical safety collaborators
- Innovative, change and transition facilitators
- Proactive and responsive

Strategic levers

Safety leadership and partnership

- Drive safety leadership at all points along the supply chain.

Emerging and existing technology

- Research and understand emerging and existing technologies and potential impacts on electrical safety.

Workforce competence

- Improve workforce skills and competence to respond to existing and emerging risks.

Global supply

- Control the global supply electrical risk through design and quality assurance.

Effective regulation

- Align regulatory framework with community and industry change.

Five-year key outcomes

- Electrical industry committed to safety leadership cultural change.
- Industry transition to matching technical focus with a safety focus.
- Electrical Safety Board an industry thought leader on electrical safety impacts of emerging technologies.
- Raise industry competencies and continued professional development.
- New skills aligning with emerging technologies.
- Effective state and national Electrical Equipment Safety System.
- Improvement in design and quality assurance to advance supply of safe equipment.
- Reduction in fire and shock incidents as a result of electrical equipment failure.
- Fit-for-purpose and contemporary legislative framework to eliminate electrical safety risk.

Performance measurement

Reduction of workplace:

- fatalities
- serious electrical incidents and dangerous electrical events
- electricity related hospital admissions.

Reduction of community:

- fires
- fatalities
- serious electrical incidents and dangerous electrical events
- electricity related hospital admissions.

Industry engagement and safety leadership

- Positive electrical safety workplace culture.
- Voluntary reporting/engagement.
- Electrical safety leadership engagement.
- New skill development in response to emerging technologies.

Community awareness and behaviour

- Awareness and perceptions of electrical safety risks within the community.



Electrical supply and networks



Renewables



Electrical equipment manufacturers and suppliers



Electrical workers and contractors



Others who work near and with electricity



Home owners



General community

Strategic risks

Emerging technology

- Unknown impact of new technologies on electrical safety.
- Legislation does not keep pace with community and industry change.

Economic

- Economic impact on business and community.
- Cost pressures on safety practices.

Engagement

- Ineffective engagement with industry and the community.

Capability

- Limited Electrical Safety Board and committee resources.
- Lack of access to data or information to accurately access and trend industry safety issues.
- Industry not meeting competency requirements.

Strategic levers

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4. Global supply

Control the global supply electrical risk through design and quality assurance.

5. Effective regulation

Align regulatory framework with community and industry change.

Goals—where we want to be

- Cultural change driven through visible safety leadership and sector networking.
- Industry leaders, workers and community empowered to lead change.
- Electrical safety integrated in all parts of any business.
- Electrical safety risk eliminated by innovation, design and higher order controls.

- Safe generation, transmission and distribution of electricity.
- People living and working safely around electricity.
- Industry, regulators to better understand emerging technologies and their potential impacts (improvements or reduction) on electrical safety.
- Increased control of electrical safety risks by the community.

- Electrical contractors and workers perform electrical work safely and competently.
- Electrical safety risk is effectively controlled at all workplaces.
- A culture of life-long learning and development is instilled across the electrical industry.
- Training packages and relevant programs support industry to manage electrical risk of current and emerging technologies.
- Advice and information support compliance.

- Safe electrical equipment supplied to the market, through both traditional and non-traditional channels.
- National implementation of the Electrical Equipment Safety System (EESS).
- Improved standards for equipment safety, product assurance and procurement.
- Electrical safety outcomes driven by commercial relationships within supply chains.

- Legislative framework fit for purpose and contemporary in the face of technology and environmental change.
- Strong community confidence in the electrical safety regulatory system.
- Robust data to better understand key issues in electrical safety.
- Evidence-based regulatory interventions, proportionate to risk and minimised regulatory burden.

Strategies—what we will focus on

- Forums for industry cooperation and collaboration.
- Worker/community education and awareness programs (for empowerment and culture change).

- Renewable/ smart technologies.
- Safe outcomes from existing technologies.
- Consumer-level education for personal accountability.
- Electrical safety of vulnerable people in the home.
- Industry-level education through continuing professional development.
- Ageing technology interface with new technology.

- Working safely near overhead powerlines.
- Working safely near energised equipment.
- Compliant electrical work.
- Continuous Professional Development (CPD) program.
- Verification of competence in the workplace.
- Unlicensed work (protecting the integrity of electrical trade).
- Develop industry guidance papers on new and emerging technologies.

- EESS check-testing.
- EESS industry education.
- Electrical equipment supplied by small-medium importers.
- Designer/installer education of supply chain risks and legislative framework.
- Education/ support on industry supply chain management.

- Review of electrical safety legislation.
- Data sharing.
- Industry co-regulation.
- Stakeholders engaged in the design, implementation and evaluation of programs and interventions.
- Evaluation strategy (impact analysis resulting from this Plan).

Key deliverables—in the next 18 months

Electrical Safety Office

- Support the Commissioner for Electrical Safety in delivering the Safety Leadership at Work (SLAW) program.
- Facilitate statewide safety forums (apprentice/young workers, prescribed electricity entity and accredited auditors).
- Partner with the Commissioner for Electrical Safety on regional roadshows held across Queensland.

Board and Committees

- Completion of SLAW pilot program.
- Develop a strategy to transition the SLAW program to industry with a system to measure and monitor the safety culture in the industry.
- Partner with industry and the broader community to promote electrical safety.
- Strengthen and develop local industry networks/relationships across regional Queensland.

Electrical Safety Office

- Audits and engagement of large-scale renewable projects.
- Develop strategies for improved electrical safety for regional Queensland.
- Promotion and distribution of property owner and tenant electrical safety information.
- Influence Australian standards, training packages and industry best practice to ensure they are contemporary and enable agile response to new technology.

Board and Committees

- Provide industry data on potential impacts of renewable/smart technologies to identify risks and hazards.
- Contribute to awareness and engagement strategies around vulnerable people that are personalised and tailored to local community needs.
- Identify gaps and provide advice and recommendations for emerging and existing technology training packages.
- Host an industry roundtable on ageing and new technology interface and the impacts it has on electrical safety.

Electrical Safety Office

- Conduct research on arc flash and industry attitudes to understand and influence change within industry to develop suitable strategies.
- Delivery of the compliance and engagement campaign in alignment with the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Policy.
- Delivery of the CPD program for electrical licensing.

Board and Committees

- Advise on policy options to improve the control of risks associated with working near overhead powerlines.
- Advise on policy options to improve the control of risks associated with working near energised equipment.
- Provide industry input into the design and delivery of the CPD program.
- Review and provide input into the online skills maintenance program including the delivery method for electrical licensing.

Electrical Safety Office

- National check-testing program, including feedback to industry.
- Compliance and engagement campaign to include small- medium importers.
- Develop quality assurance information relating to the supply of safe electrical equipment in conjunction with industry.

Board and Committees

- Promote the EESS as the “go to” platform for industry and consumers.
- Explore emerging equipment designs to improve electrical safety.
- Hold an industry forum to identify issues relating to the safe supply of electrical equipment by small-medium importers.
- Provide advice on safety related messages for supply chain management of electrical equipment.

Electrical Safety Office

- Review electrical safety legislation and provide advice to the Minister.
- Research electrical injuries to identify patterns, circumstances, attitudes and opportunities for intervention.
- Promote outcomes of compliance activity and educate industry on the areas of identified non-compliance and necessary controls.
- Formalise evaluation framework.

Board and Committees

- Recommend the commencement of the review of the Electrical Safety Act 2002 and Electrical Safety Regulation 2013 and provide industry input/advice into the review.
- Address the lack of data to assess industry and broader community safety issues.
- Provide industry input into the Code of Practices for Electrical Equipment Rural Industry, Working Near Overhead and Underground Electrical Lines, and Works.
- Review the plan annually to ensure the deliverables are being met and the plan’s strategies are still relevant.