

Message from the Minister



Electrical safety is of paramount importance for all Queenslanders, whether in our workplaces, public areas, or at home.

A lot of hard work has gone into improving electrical safety in Queensland since the introduction in October 2002 of Queensland's first

stand-alone electrical safety legislation, the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* and *Electrical Safety Regulation 2002*.

This legislation, which also established the Electrical Safety Board and its committees, is directed at eliminating the human cost to individuals, families and the community of death, injury and destruction that can be caused by electricity.

The inaugural Electrical Safety Board developed the first Electrical Safety Plan for Queensland (2003–2008) which has informed strategies for reducing electrical incidents over the past five years, and I commend the Board on its commitment to driving changes during that period which continue to reduce the risk of incidents and injury from electricity.

Implementation of the strategies contained in this plan has seen improvement in electrical safety in Queensland on a number of fronts. Examples include more effective electrical licensing and related disciplinary options; more focused and transparent compliance and enforcement initiatives; strengthened electrical equipment approvals; extensive community engagement and education programs;

and the increasing integration of safety switches into Queensland homes and workplaces.

Laws and plans alone do not save lives. The welcome support from industry, unions, employers and the community have made Queenslanders far more aware of the dangers of working and living around electricity. However, there is more to be done, as too many Queenslanders are still being killed and injured from contact with electricity.

This work continues with the release of the *Electrical Safety Plan for Queensland 2009–2014*, developed by the Electrical Safety Board in consultation with industry and employers. This plan builds on achievements to date with the commendable goal of 'the elimination of all preventable electrical deaths'. To work towards attaining this goal, the plan identifies 'powerlines', 'electrical installations' and 'electrical equipment' as the future priority areas and establishes strategies under each of these.

Over the coming years, electrical entities, industry, unions, employers and householders will have the opportunity to work towards the plan's objectives and to contribute to making tomorrow's Queensland a safer place for all.

I thank everyone involved in improving electrical safety for their efforts so far and commend to you the *Electrical Safety Plan for Queensland 2009–2014*.

Hon. John Mickel MP

Minister for Transport, Trade,
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