

28 April 2017

Review of Electricity and Gas Retail Markets
Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning
PO Box 500
Melbourne VIC 8002

Via email: energymarket.review@delwp.vic.gov.au

RE: Review of Electricity and Gas Retail Markets in Victoria

Dear Sir/Madam

The National Electrical Contractors Association – Victorian Chapter (NECA), appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission to the review of Victoria's electricity and gas retail markets.

NECA is the National Electrical and Communications Association and we represent over 1200 Electrical contracting companies in Victoria. We are motivated to see a strong and effective regulated market to ensure the safety and the integrity of the electrical systems are maintained.

We are most interested with this review and would be keen to be engaged further. Of particular interest is **Emerging Technologies**.

We are concerned the regulations and training concerned with these are lagging the market and people are making best effort. When we consider rural properties, where there is a high cost to establishing an electrical connection. Property owners make connection to the grid with the SWER lines, we understand these systems have been the focus of a number of recommendations from the VBRC. Rural properties owners face the tyranny of long distances and are seeking a more affordable solution and are turning to renewables as a potential solution. We are concerned much of this installation work is being done under the auspice of the "handyman" as it is considered low voltage. Without the correct installation methods these micro generation plants (solar and battery) could be a source of danger to the people and further to the community in the event the installation initiates a fire situation.

NECA would be keen to participate in an industry workshop with stakeholders including ESV, Suppliers, and Users etc. to determine the best outcome to this threat and / or opportunity.

In addition, NECA would be keen to participate in other working groups where the voice of the installer (Electrical Contractor) is required.

Yours sincerely



James Keegan
Executive Director
NECA Victoria