

15 October 2021

Hon Mick de Brenni
Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement
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Dear Minister,

Master Builders has recently become aware of an issue that may detrimentally impact on the success of the Queensland Government's recently commenced fire protection licensing reforms.

We believe the issue affects approximately 400 licensees who prior to the reforms held a contractor's or occupational licence allowing them to undertake inspect and test work of fire hydrants and hose reels. A number of those affected are members of Master Builders, gravely concerned that they are facing collapse of their businesses, dismissing employees and inability to meet long term contractual obligations from 1 November 2021.

Under the transitional arrangements for these licensees, they were given between 1 May 2021 and 31 October 2021 to upgrade their technical qualifications to a *Certificate III in Fire Protection* to continue to perform inspect and test work under their licence. Unfortunately, it is proving impossible for these licensees to obtain the additional qualification in such a short period of time due to the following:

- The prescribed Certificate III course involves the completion of a 3-year apprenticeship and cannot be completed in the 6 months provided for in the transitional arrangements.
- There are no alternative bridging courses available to assist licensees to meet the transitional arrangements.
- Because the content of the *Certificate III in Fire Protection* far exceeds the inspect and test work ordinarily undertaken by the affected licensees, a recognition of prior learning process to obtain the qualification is not possible.

To resolve this issue, we are suggesting that an additional transitional pathway be created. Specifically, it is proposed that licensees who held a *Fire Hydrants and hose reels – Inspect and test licence* as at 1 May 2021 be transitioned to a *Fire protection – Water-based fire system stream - Install and maintain licence*, subject to a licence condition that the holder can only inspect and test fire hydrant systems and fire hose reel systems.

We would note that this approach has been taken for several licence classes over the years.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely



Grant Galvin
CEO