

19 June 2018

Review of the Queensland Energy Legislation – Issues Paper
Energy Industry Policy – Strategic Futures
Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Email: energyreview@dnrme.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir / Madam

Review of Queensland Energy Legislation – Issues Paper – Master Builders

I am writing on behalf of Master Builders' membership in relation to the review of the Queensland's energy regulatory framework.

The key issue for the building and construction industry is establishing the cost benefit of any new regulation. We therefore welcome the Issues Paper highlighting the importance of demonstrating a net benefit to the community of new regulation. This will be particularly relevant in striving to achieve the renewable energy target. With housing affordability a constant challenge, new construction cannot be expected to disproportionately 'carry the load' in achieving this goal. The costs added to new construction must be justified.

It is also important to our industry that we have a regulatory system that allows for the adoption of new technology in a safe and reliable way. While we see the opportunities in advances such as smart metering, battery storage and photovoltaic cells etc., we are also aware of the risks. Having been at the centre of the problems that non-conforming products can bring, we ask for a regulatory system that effectively manages the risk and allows for the safe adoption of new technology.

In conducting the review we would also ask you to consider ways to ensure a flexible, timely and cost effective system for electricity connections. The problems that have accompanied the introduction of the *Power of Choice* program, where delays have added between \$1,000 and \$2,000 to the cost of a new home, highlight the importance of getting this right.

The most appropriate solution to this problem is to implement the NSW model. That is to allow suitably qualified contractors to install meters when they are wiring a new home, and to connect that home to the grid when they have completed the metering work. This would need to be accompanied by a training and accreditation process for contractors, to ensure that they are suitability qualified to install meters and connect homes to the network.

HEAD OFFICE

417 Wickham Tce, Brisbane Qld 4000

T (07) 3225 6444

F (07) 3225 6545

mbql.com.au

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to this review. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any further information.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Bidwell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a light grey rectangular box.

Paul Bidwell
Deputy CEO