



Lighting Council Australia
PO Box 1058, Hawthorn, VIC, 3122
Tel: +61 3 9819 9441
Fax: +61 3 9815 2609
Mobile: +61 415 428 731
Email:
dcrossley@lightingcouncil.com.au
Web: www.lightingcouncil.com.au
ACN 130 217 613

Media Release

Electrical safety regulations a mess says peak body

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New regulations slated to start in coming weeks are inconsistently applied, leading to confusion in industry and higher costs for consumers, the peak body for the lighting industry warns.

Lighting Council Australia, which represents 100 of Australia's leading lighting suppliers, says that despite years of discussion between state governments, insufficient progress has been made on aligning rules between states.

"We have eight jurisdictions and four different approaches dealing with precisely the same issue", explains Technical Manager David Crossley.

While there is no direct cause for the public to be alarmed about safety, consumers are paying more because of unnecessary red-tape created by governments across the country.

"It's a real shame that the full benefits of LED technologies aren't being realised by consumers because costs are needlessly raised by governments that don't seem to be able to get their acts together."

"Higher costs for industry in registering and handling products means higher costs for consumers when they see the item on the shelf."

The lack of alignment between regulations means that suppliers face different rules in different jurisdictions for the same products. "In some states, regulations are applied retrospectively; while in others, the rules start from day one. In practice, suppliers can't control how items sold onto retailers are managed, and this is causing headaches for our members."

"The differences between state regulations are unnecessary, difficult and costly for suppliers to manage. These additional costs are passed on to consumers through higher prices for LED products."

"LED lights are the future of the lighting market and we call on state governments to step up and take decisive steps to address this long-running issue."

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Media enquiries: David Crossley 0415 428 731