



April 2018

A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND
ASSOCIATES OF LIGHTING COUNCIL AUSTRALIA

ILLUMINATIONS – April 2018

Welcome to the **THIRTEENTH** edition of our E-newsletter, produced to keep Members and Associates informed about developments in lighting and related technology areas.

This newsletter will also keep you informed about new regulations, policies and on-going consultation with Federal, State and Territory Governments as well as key industry events. We welcome feedback and items for potential publication.

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Chairman's column



Late last month I travelled with two Lighting Council Australia staff, Roman Gowor and Tim Copland, to Canberra for a number of important meetings. A key item on our agenda was to address a committee of backbench Coalition members interested in environment and energy matters, and another was to brief the staff of the Minister responsible for building policy issues. While I was pleased with the outcomes of the day—a very promising way forward on MEPS for LEDs and a constructive briefing on photoluminescence exit signs—I thought I would share a number of observations about the advocacy process.

The first of these is the importance of familiarity and presence. Parliamentarians and especially Ministers receive hundreds of letters, representations, delegations and

CEO's column



I am very pleased to inform our readers that we have achieved a very significant result on the MEPS for LEDs issue. After months of detailed discussions with the Minister and his Department, Lighting Council Australia reached an in-principle agreement with government that will significantly reduce compliance costs for industry.

There is increasing speculation that the next Federal Budget, to be delivered in early May, will be an “election budget” that aims to shore up the position of the government in the electorate. While this parliament could sit until 2019, some commentators are suggesting that the Coalition is gearing up for an August 2018 poll date, which is the

requests for their attention each month. Being known to politicians and their staff plays a significant role in getting the opportunity to make your case. Richard Mulcahy brought to the role as CEO extensive networks around Parliament House, but I've come to a firm view on the importance of industry bodies like ours having representatives frequently attend in person, wearing out the shoe leather and maintaining those relationships. Another is the importance of making your case succinctly, presenting problems clearly, and defining your issue in terms that play to the interests of the audience. While that advice is true for a whole number of interactions in the professional world, there are few situations where it is so crucial as in political advocacy where short meetings with busy and distracted politicians are quite frequently the only opportunity to secure interest and support for your issue. I think our Secretariat staff have done this well.

I have said previously in this column that I felt that our new emphasis on advocacy is beginning to pay dividends but I am pleasantly surprised with the speed at which our presence in Canberra is being recognised.

Tony Todaro
Chairman

earliest date that an election could be held without raising issues for a Senate election, which typically replaces half its members at each ordinary election.

In my view, an election Budget—usually targeted at swing voters and middle-income families—is not something the business community should relish. Governments can and should make meaningful investments in infrastructure (something which has been foreshadowed) but spending plans made in the face of bad poll results are usually fiscally irresponsible.

The ability to set the federal budget is one of the key privileges of being in government and a major tool for governments seeking re-election. However, for every additional dollar spent currying favour, a yet heavier tax burden falls on a decreasing base of higher income earners and the business sector.

This government should focus on reform that has long-term, structural benefits, such as tax reform to reduce inefficient taxes, and the removal of stifling government bureaucracy that produces little or no benefit. These important priorities, however, often fall by the wayside in favour of sweet deals for target voter groups.

Richard J Mulcahy
Chief Executive Officer

LCA CEO featured in Lighting Magazine

Lighting Council Australia CEO Mr Richard Mulcahy was featured in IESANZ's most recent bimonthly publication. Readers can see the Q&A at [this link](#).

Mr Kim Craig (Legrand Australia) to receive Meritorious Contribution Standards Award

Outgoing Director and Treasurer of Lighting Council Australia, Mr Kim Craig of Legrand Australia, will receive a prestigious acknowledgement of his longstanding contribution to industry through a 2018 Standards Australia Award. The 'Meritorious Contribution Award – International' will be presented to Mr Craig next month at a dinner to be held by Standards Australia.

The award recognises achievements in international standards development and is presented to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service in enabling Standards Australia to meet its objectives in enriching the lives of Australians.

Lighting Council Australia extends its very warm and sincere congratulations to Mr Craig on this well-earned success.

GEMS Act Review

The Australian Government is undertaking an independent review of the *Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards Act 2012* (GEMS Act). The GEMS Act is the basis for much of the federal environmental regulation of over 20 different types of energy-consuming products, from lighting to washing machines, dryers, chillers, motors, televisions and refrigerators. Lighting Council Australia made a submission in response to the Discussion Paper released by the Department in February. A full version of the submission can be seen [here](#).

The key issues raised by Lighting Council Australia included the ongoing failure of government regulators to stamp out non-compliant products being sold on the market; the imposition of high costs in bringing goods to the market which raises prices and reduces choice; and the overall inflexibility of the Act in providing commercially reasonable approaches to regulation.

Lighting Council Australia thanks members who contributed to the response. A draft report is scheduled to be released by the Government Review Team in May/June 2018, with an industry roundtable to follow. A final report is scheduled for release later this year, after an additional round of written submissions. Members will be updated on these developments and will be encouraged to provide additional commentary at the next submission phase.



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Clarifying commencement date of LED lamp classification under EESS

Members will be aware that the Electrical Equipment Safety System (EESS) proposes changes to the risk classification of “in-scope” LED lamps from mid-2018. This change will mean that self-ballasted LED lamps, previously classified at risk level 1, will be re-classified as level 3. Readers should be aware that two dates – 1 June 2018 and 30 June 2018 – were published in the relevant standard.

The EESS Administrator has confirmed that they will apply the 30 June 2018 date.

Read more [here](#).

Standards Australia achieves positive outcome on publication dispute

In June 2016, Standards Australia commenced an arbitration action against SAI Global in relation to the publishing licence agreement between the two parties. Standards Australia is the independent, not-for-profit, peak non-government standards development organisation.

The arbitration was heard by a former High Court judge who determined that SAI Global is prohibited from amending, modifying or revising Australian Standards material without the consent of Standards Australia. The arbitration outcome included a finding that SAI Global had infringed Standards Australia’s copyright and breached terms of the publishing licence agreement by converting standards documentation into different formats.

Standards Australia welcomed the opportunity to restart a dialogue with SAI Global about how the two bodies can work together to improve customer experience.

"Our first priority is to make the customer experience better – and that means offering contemporary digital products," said Dr Bronwyn Evans, CEO of Standards Australia.

"Our objective has always been to ensure the viability and capacity of Standards Australia as a contributor to Australia’s economic future. Being able to distribute innovative digital content through appropriate channels and with appropriate checks, balances and commercial terms is a key part of this objective."

Exitcycle funding for Queensland

Lighting Council Australia is pleased to inform its readers that the Queensland Government has offered additional funding for a continuation of the Exitcycle program.

Exitcycle is a Product Stewardship arrangement modelled on Fluorocycle that aims to promote the recycling of emergency and exit lighting through a voluntary scheme. The program has been running since in October 2015 after the Queensland Government provided pilot program funding. The additional funding recently offered will help the program expand and continue its important role in increasing recycling rates.

Emergency and exit lighting batteries are among the most hazardous of all batteries. Cadmium, nickel and lead are toxic heavy metals that need to be carefully managed to minimise their potential impacts on humans and the natural environment. Recycling ensures that these materials are safely recovered rather than disposed to landfill. Parties involved in the handling of emergency and exit lighting batteries operating in Queensland are strongly encouraged to apply. More information about the Exitcycle program can be found [here](#).

Member Profile – Santo Coco – General Manager, Frend Lighting Industries



Question: When did you start in the lighting industry? If you hadn't chosen lighting, where do you think your career might have taken you?

I started my career in Lighting in 1980 in a Tech Rep role with a company called Trulite Industries at Wacol. I had originally completed an apprenticeship in an electrical trade with a Brisbane based contractor (HE Burrows in Fortitude Valley). I then worked as a fully qualified Electrical Fitter Mechanic in Blackwater for Thiess underground coal mining before returning back to HE Burrows for a few years. I worked as a maintenance electrician for David Jones' Brisbane City store, and I think that if I hadn't joined Trulite, I might still be with David Jones.

Question: Tell us about Frend Lighting. How long have you been involved with the company?

Frend has been in operation 22 years. I'm proud to say that we've still have four staff members who have been with the company since it began, and a number of others that have been with the company for 15 to 20 years. It is rare to see this in today's world and job market. In 2010, the company founders sold Frend Lighting to the Gerard Group and we continue to steadily progress in a very competitive market.

I commenced in March 2017 as General Manager of Frend Lighting. While I'm still relatively new to this role, I feel like I have returned to my roots when I started with the industry, as Trulite was one of the other three Brisbane-based sheet metal lighting manufacturers.

Question: What are your hopes and expectations for Frend?

As the only factory still in operation in Brisbane (and for that fact, in Queensland) that has the expertise to manufacture sheet metal luminaires, I would like to see the future of this company extending well beyond my time. Frend followed the evolution from fluorescent to LED products in various forms of custom made luminaires, and I hope that we continue to embrace change in the technology of light sources and controls.

Question: Lighting has undergone a revolution in the last decade. Where do you see the Australian lighting industry in ten years' time?

My best estimate is that 70 per cent of commercial lighting equipment is manufactured in Australia today, with the rest imported from overseas. In time, I expect that this will change to reflect the much higher costs of manufacture in Australia, with 90 per cent of commercial lighting equipment to be eventually imported.

Question: What are the biggest challenges for the lighting industry at this time?

Keeping pace with accredited manufacturers of LED boards and control equipment as not all manufacturers share their information with us. We are one of a few that use Zhaga mounting centres. (The Zhaga Consortium is an international organisation establishing industry standards for interchangeable LED light source modules.) This means that where units fail they can be rebuilt rather than imported items that must be replaced in full.

Question: Can you tell us a little about yourself? What are your interests outside of work?

I was born in Brisbane to Sicilian parents, attending St Martins, Carina State School, and later, St James in Fortitude Valley. I commenced my electrical apprenticeship in 1970. I started in the lighting industry in 1980, working in the lighting field for Trulite as a Tech Rep, before joining Concord as State Manager, Harcroft as State Manager, Spectra as State Manager for Trulite products and then Davis as National Sales and up to GM role till Dec 2014 where I accepted a severance package. In 2015 I had the whole year off and in Dec15-Jan16 I commenced building a new home as owner/builder.

On a personal note I have 4 sons and 6 grandchildren, reside in Beachmere and enjoy various interests like target shooting (Licenced Pistol, Rifle and Shotgun), fishing and 4x4ing on Fraser Island when I can.

Upcoming Events

The Sub-Industry Group Meetings for SSL and Lamps, Lighting Controls, and Street Lighting will take place in Sydney on 1 May 2018. The Emergency Lighting group will meet in Sydney on 8 May 2018.

The next quarterly events will also take place in May in Sydney, with the Members' Dinner on 8 May and QGM on 9 May.

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