



**January 2018**

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

## ILLUMINATIONS – January 2018

**Welcome** to the tenth 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



I hope all our readers had an enjoyable Christmas break and the opportunity to relax and prepare for the coming year.

Reflecting on last year, I believe that the MEPS for LEDs campaign run by Lighting Council Australia is a 'proof of concept' for future advocacy for the industry. The considerable work undertaken by Richard Mulcahy and his team in increasing our political engagement, particularly in the last quarter of 2017, I believe provides our industry with a strong foundation for representation on other important issues.

One issue I see dominating our work in 2018 is the proposed redraft of the National Construction Code. Consultation documentation including the draft Code has been circulated to the public, noting that we

## CEO's column



The Christmas period provides us all with an opportunity to pause and reflect on the year that has been and to look forward to the opportunities ahead. As I approach the end of my first year in the role of CEO of Lighting Council Australia, I thought it would be appropriate to share some reflections on some of the broader issues affecting business in Australia.

The Lighting Industry, like so many others in Australia, is stifled by bureaucratic intervention and ineffective regulation.

I was saddened but not shocked recently to read reports confirming the very high burden of government regulation in Australia. Our ranking at 80th in the world puts us far behind the US, New Zealand and the UK

as the lighting industry are just one of many industries affected. The Code contains a number of concerning proposals. These range from stringency increases that may present technological and market challenges for our members, through to proposals which appear completely unworkable and effectively ban entire classes of products.

The Lighting Council Australia Secretariat has already undertaken a substantial amount of work in understanding the policy and anticipating its consequences. Our experience has shown however, that commercial realities are not always reflected in the regulators' proposals. Our first and current approach is to work closely with policy developers regarding the technical and commercial problems with the draft Code. It may however again become necessary to engage with political decision-makers.

The ongoing contribution of members to the work of Lighting Council Australia is highly valued, and I warmly encourage you all to continue your involvement in this important year. Tony Todaro  
Chairman

(12th, 22nd and 32nd respectively), and in the same league as Bangladesh and Iran. These figures from the World Economic Forum help explain why Australia ranks last in rate of entrepreneurial growth amongst 32 OECD countries.

Our industry suffers more than others from the straining effect of being subject to a patchwork of state, territory and federal regulations. Federal systems like Australia's can bring some advantages to industry, but this occurs particularly where state governments compete amongst each other to reduce the burden of doing business in their jurisdiction, and where the federal government takes leadership in harmonising state laws.

Governments at all levels in Australia are doing too little to improve the outlook for industry in Australia. The MEPS for LEDs debacle and the failure of regulators to act decisively on non-compliant products both relate to these issues of over-regulation and a lack of leadership by the Federal Government.

I encourage industry participants to reflect on the failure of governments across jurisdictions and political parties to meaningfully enforce existing regulations before they voice support for additional red-tape in our industry. We shall never tackle non-compliant products in the marketplace unless a strong enforcement regime is put in place.

Richard J Mulcahy  
Chief Executive Officer

## MEPS for LEDs Update

Participants consulted in the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy's MEPS for LEDs policy development process would be aware of correspondence from the Department in late December. In correspondence dated 20 December 2017, the Department put out an update that contained a number of troubling references and erroneous statements. The update suggested not only that the E3 work would lead to MEPS being introduced in 2018, but also re-raised the prospects of MEPS for LED luminaires – something that was explicitly ruled out just weeks before.

Lighting Council Australia acted immediately to address the issue, writing to the Secretary of the Department to raise these concerns. The Department wrote to industry stakeholders two days later, on 22 December 2017, to clarify that the reference to 2018 was in relation to the consultation process regarding MEPS for LEDs.

We share the frustration of industry participants that the Department appears to be unwilling to avoid raising serious concerns in industry. These interventions are unwelcome, especially in the lead up to the Christmas break.

Lighting Council Australia will continue to meet with senior officials to work through a timetable and will report to Members with Special Bulletins as appropriate.

## Are you a reader but not a member? Join Lighting Council Australia

Readers of Illuminations that are participants in the lighting industry but not yet Members are warmly encouraged to consider membership.

2018 is an important year and Lighting Council Australia's voice is strengthened with every new eligible member. Potential applicants would be bound by our Industry Code, a testament to your customers that you are a credible participant in the Australian market.

**The Lighting Council Australia Membership Kit is available [website](#). Those ineligible for Full Membership may be eligible to become Associate Members. Membership enquiries should be directed to National Marketing and Environment Manager, Roman Gowor, via [email](#) or on [\(03\) 9818 5920](tel:0398185920).**

## Tim Wilson MP visits Brilliant Lighting

Mr Tim Wilson MP, Federal Member for Goldstein (Vic), visited Brilliant Lighting's headquarters in Melbourne's East in December. Mr Colin Goldman, CEO, and Mr Norm Levin, Managing Director, were pleased to give Mr Wilson a tour of their showroom and to discuss issues affecting the industry.

Mr Wilson was previously Policy Director for the Institute of Public Affairs, a free-market thinktank, and he showed a keen interest in the broad range of issues canvassed which included the MEPS for LEDs proposal and the importation of non-compliant products.



Pictured: Timocles Copland (Lighting Council Australia Corporate Affairs Manager), Colin Goldman (Brilliant Lighting CEO), Tim Wilson MP (Member for Goldstein), and Norman Levin (Brilliant Lighting Managing Director).

Lighting Council Australia welcomes Mr Wilson's interest and will continue to brief him on federal issues affecting the lighting industry, particularly the MEPS for LEDs proposal.

## **Member Profile – Kim Craig, HPM Le Grand, and Lighting Council Australia Treasurer**



**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 entered the lighting industry in 1979 as co-owner of a lighting manufacturing business. I was previously employed by NSW Department of Agriculture and that would have been my likely career choice.

**Question: How long have you been with HPM Legrand? Tell us what you enjoy most about your role.**

HPM purchased a share of my business in 2002 and when Legrand Australia purchased HPM my company was eventually fully purchased in 2007. I have been fortunate that Legrand expanded my role from an Australian role to an international role as I became more involved in international standardisation work. I am now leading an IEC initiative on Smart Home/Office Building Systems which is a challenging and interesting topic.

**Question: You have been a Director of Lighting Council Australia since its inception over ten years ago. What do you consider the highlight of your involvement?**

Being part of a dedicated group of Directors who have the best interests of the Lighting Industry as a core value – and where decision making is based on consensus. The membership has continued to grow and this must be an indicator of membership satisfaction.

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

There will be a significant change in the commercial entities that comprise the Lighting industry and in the products that deliver the applications and domains that are integral to a Lighting System.

Rapidly evolving technologies require interoperability and interconnection of lighting products with non-lighting devices and so the lighting environment is quickly becoming more complex and broad ranging – not just 'Lighting' but a 'Lighting System' that is part of an even bigger and more complex 'System' e.g. Smart Building, Smart City.

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

To play a meaningful role in recognizing the speed of technological change and being proactive in understanding and developing the parameters that will ensure that future Lighting Systems will deliver:

- compliant, safe and fit for purpose products
- lighting scenarios that are comfortable and appropriate ie. Human centric
- energy efficiency
- compatibility with other elements of the environment in which they operate

**Question: Can you tell us a little about your family? What do you do outside of work?**

I've been happily married for 39 years.

We have one son who is a Chartered Accountant and a Director of a FinTech company – he has a 5yo daughter and an 18-month-old son.

We also have a daughter who teaches Art and Design and who has an 18-month-old son.

My wife and I live on a small hobby farm on the Mid North Coast of NSW where we delight in spending family time with our children and grandchildren. My hobbies include growing and cooking our own produce and fine woodwork using locally sourced timber.

## Discontinuation of Lighting Council Australia Annual Logo Kits

Lighting Council Australia Members are advised that we will no longer be issuing year-dated Lighting Council Australia logos.

The decision to discontinue their use was based on Member feedback that inclusion of the year was affecting marketing materials produced.

Members are advised to contact Roman Gowor, National Marketing and Environment Manager, if they have any marketing related requests.

## New ABCB Chief Appointed

In early January 2019, the new Minister for Small and Family Business, the Workplace and Deregulation, Craig Laundy MP, announced the appointment of Stephen McBurney to head up the Australian Building and Construction Commission.

Readers will be aware that the Australian Building and Construction Commission is responsible for administration of the National Construction Code.

Mr McBurney is a Victorian lawyer, bringing a number of years of experience in the predecessor organisation to the ABCB. Readers might also recognise Mr McBurney on account of his career as an accomplished AFL umpire, having umpired over 400 games, including AFL grand finals.

Lighting Council Australia is continuing its work on matters within the purview of the ABCB, which includes the proposed 2019 update of the National Construction Code. At this time, the proposed draft includes a number of concerning proposals, including the banning of certain upward-facing outdoor luminaires and other regulations that will negatively impact on industry and the choices available to consumers.

Read more about the appointment of Mr McBurney [here](#).

## Choice calls for action on faulty products

The recent product recall on a batch of faulty pressure cookers has sparked fresh criticism of Australia's product safety recall system. Six people received second or third degree burns after the faulty devices, sold exclusively by Aldi, malfunctioned and injured household users. Consumer group CHOICE highlights that four of the injuries occurred after the product recall had commenced, suggesting that the existing regime for product safety recalls is deficient. CHOICE also noted that as at December 2017, four months after the recall had commenced, only a quarter of faulty devices had been returned. The consumer group's full statement is available [here](#).

**This event underscores the importance of quality goods and the need for an effective regulatory regime. Lighting Council Australia will continue to educate regulators that merely imposing pre-market requirements is not enough to ensure public safety; rather the entire regulatory framework must be coherent, including compliance and enforcement.**

## Upcoming Events

Lighting Council Australia Members and Associate Members will receive details of our upcoming Members' Dinner and Quarterly General Meeting to be held in Melbourne on 27 and 28 February 2018 respectively.

**The SSL & Lamps, Lighting Controls, and Street Lighting Sub-Industry Groups will meet on 13 February 2018 in Sydney. Non-participants interested in the work of Lighting Council Australia Sub-Industry Groups should direct enquiries to Corporate Affairs Manager, Timocles Copland, via [email](#) or on [\(03\) 9818 5920](tel:0398185920).**

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**Our mailing address is:**

Suite 5, 191 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn VIC 3122  
PO Box 1058, Hawthorn VIC 3122  
(03) 9818 5920