



March 2017

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES LIGHTING COUNCIL AUSTRALIA

ILLUMINATIONS

Welcome to the first edition of our new E-Newsletter, produced to keep Members and Associates informed about developments in the 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.

New CEO

Members will be generally aware that Bryan Douglas has now stepped down after almost a decade of service.

We thank Bryan his outstanding efforts during this time. Bryan will still be assisting the industry on a consulting basis in the period ahead for some time.

Bryan has been succeeded by Richard Mulcahy who has extensive experience in Association management and industry as well as having worked internationally, held office as the Deputy Opposition Leader in the ACT and served as Principal Personal Assistant to a former Victorian Premier.

Richard enjoys strong relationships in the Federal Parliament and has already commenced meeting individual Lighting Council Members to learn more about industry issues.

sparc-FMA

The major industry event-sparc-FMA-will take place at the International Convention Centre at Darling Harbour-May 30-June 1.

Around 2,000 delegates are expected to attend along with some 120 exhibitors, reflecting the latest in technology, with an audience ranging from designers, architects, manufacturers and building owners and managers.

For the first time, Lighting Council Australia has joined forces with the Facilities Management Association to bring the combined resources of both organisations together to create the largest event of its kind in the southern hemisphere.

The exhibition will culminate with a spectacular Gala Dinner featuring well-known entertainment, details of which will be announced shortly.

There are some trade booths and sponsorship opportunities still available.

Registrations for delegates are now open and may be arranged through this link: [Register Here](#)

GEMS Fee Review

Another important issue addressed at the SSL and Lamps industry sub-group was the matter of the GEMS Fee Review.

The registration fees review, under the Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards Act (Referred to as the GEMS Act) and the 'family' allowances will all be very important to coordinate a sensible and reasonable cost on the lighting industry for these new regulations.

If we start from the premise that all-in scope LED's need to meet MEPS then the GEMS Act, family allowances and registration fees should be set to allow the regulator to collect enough revenue to conduct a reasonable amount of compliance activity – and no more. Given the large numbers of individual LED lamp and luminaire models in the market and the high product churn rate (new products are developed every 6-10 months!) we would suggest that LED lighting products may be a unique market area and the Act review should possibly consider a new approach that minimises the administration burden of MEPS regulation.

Currently the fee for a lighting product registration is \$440. We realise that there will be many more LED suppliers and LED products than traditional regulated lighting products (lamps and ballasts) and so more compliance activity could probably be justified, however we wouldn't like to see the fee for registering a LED product to be set at a level that will result in a large increase in cost for the industry.

If the combined 'family' allowances/restrictions/ fees/registration requirements are too onerous then there is a high chance that compliant companies will restrict their product ranges and consumers will suffer.

MEPs for LEDs

A meeting of the SSL and Lamps sub-industry group was recently held in Sydney and attended by more than 20 company representatives.

A key item on the agenda for discussion was MEPs for LEDs.

Lighting Council Australia supports minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) for LEDs – mainly to remove poor quality LED products from the market when incandescent and halogen products are phased out.

However, we are concerned about the compliance costs of regulation on the lighting industry and the implementation timetable.

Federal officials are working with Lighting Council technical staff and our members on the details like family registration allowances, MEPS levels, product marking requirements and a staged implementation timing.

We need to implement in a least onerous manner and at least cost AND back up the regulation with significant monitoring, verification and enforcement activity. Our members see enforcement activity as the main benefit of regulation – providing a level playing field and removing poor quality competitors from the market.

Registrations for delegates are now open and may be arranged through this link:

Richard enjoys strong relationships in the Federal Parliament and has already commenced meeting individual Lighting Council Members to learn more about industry issues.

FluoroCycle / EXITCYCLE



FluoroCycle scheme

Around 90% of end-of-life mercury-containing lamps currently end up in landfill in Australia. Mercury is a neurotoxin and is dangerous to human health. The national FluoroCycle scheme seeks to increase the recycling rate of mercury-containing lamps. Organisations are encouraged to become Signatories to the scheme and to commit to lamp recycling at their sites. There are over 300 FluoroCycle Signatories including Ausgrid, John Holland Group, Kmart, National Australia Bank and Westpac Group. Over 1,200 tonnes of lighting waste was collected during 2015/16 and 117 kilograms of mercury recycled. FluoroCycle is accredited by the Australian Government.

[More Information](#)



EXITCYCLE scheme

The Queensland Government, in partnership with Lighting Council Australia, launched a recycling initiative for emergency and exit lighting batteries in late 2015, EXITCYCLE. The majority of batteries used in emergency and exit lighting are either nickel cadmium (Ni-Cd), nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH) or sealed lead acid (SLA). Cadmium, lead and nickel are toxic heavy metals that need to be carefully managed to minimise their impact on humans and the natural environment. Organisations in Queensland have been approached to become Signatories to EXITCYCLE and to commit to collect and recycle these batteries. It is expected that the scheme will be extended nationally.

[More information](#)

Chairman's column



At our Annual General Meeting in November 2016 I was honoured to be elected as your Chairman, having served on the Board for the past 10 years.

The industry is entering an exciting phase with the emergence of new technologies and the opportunities and challenges this provides us with. It is an

important time for us to be engaging with government and other industry stakeholders.

Lighting Council is also particularly active with regulators at this time to ensure Members' views and concerns are well represented, particularly in the area of proposed MEPS for LEDS legislation and the ongoing issues with the VEET scheme.

There is great anticipation regarding the sparC-FMA event to be held 30 May to 1 June 2017 being the first time our association has joined forces with the Facility Managers Association in what is shaping up to be a great industry event.

I am always available to hear from members and I hope you will support your Board in the new directions we have resolved to take.

Tony Todaro

Chairman

CEO's column



I took up my role as your CEO in January and I am delighted with the warm welcome extended to me by Directors, Members and staff.

The challenges ahead are significant but Members can be assured that we shall do all within our resources to take up concerns on your behalf.

The cost of excessive regulation is often not appreciated by policy-makers although we are fortunate to have an Environment Minister in The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP who enjoys a better understanding than most about the adverse impact of unnecessary red-tape.

I am keen to eventually meet all Members and Associates and I hope you will feel free to make contact if you have any matters of concern that the Lighting Council should pursue.

Richard J Mulcahy

Chief Executive Officer

Upcoming Meetings/Events

March 14: CEO and Lorraine Lilley meeting with the Department of the Environment re Minamata RIS (Mercury).

March 15: sparc-FMA Organising Committee meeting

March 17: Breakfast with the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP Minister for the Environment and Energy and Senator The Hon Mathias Cormann Minister for Finance -to be attended by Lighting Council Chair and CEO and Board Member Ian Robinson.

Next SSL and lamps sub-industry Group meeting

Date: Tuesday 2 May 2017

Time: 10.00AM – 4.00PM

Venue: Graphic Arts Club

182 Coward Street Mascot NSW