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Bureaucrats take an axe to manufacturing jobs

Bureaucrats appear to be willing to sacrifice jobs in pursuit of negligible environmental gains.

This is the verdict of Lighting Council Australia Acting CEO David Crossley whose industry body represents lighting manufacturers in Australia.

“The current proposal on the table will cause job losses and achieve very little in the way of energy efficiency benefits”, says Mr Crossley in relation to the new draft of the National Construction Code, which dramatically cuts the use of architectural and decorative lighting in new constructions and redevelopments.

Mr Crossley’s pointed comments come at a time when energy efficiency is a high priority for government, but he says that the changes are ill-considered and warns that they will cost jobs.

“It looks like bureaucrats have dreamt up a new way of achieving a theoretical reduction in energy use, but they haven’t undertaken any assessment of the impact on industry”, he says, referring to a sector that provides 2,500 lighting manufacturing, design and engineering jobs.

“We’re running out of time to stop this disastrous policy from proceeding and we call for the Ministers with responsibility for building and construction issues to step up and rein in these bureaucrats who—despite the opposition of the three relevant peak bodies—have decided that it would be a good idea to sacrifice hundreds of highly-skilled jobs to achieve vanishingly little.”

The draft of the National Construction Code will be considered by the Building Codes Committee later this month and is expected to commence in July 2019.

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