

**28 June 2023**

Office of Industrial Relations  
Workplace Health and Safety Queensland  
By Email: [espolicy@oir.qld.gov.au](mailto:espolicy@oir.qld.gov.au).

**Re., Electrical Safety Act 2002 review**

I am writing on behalf of the Boating Industry Association Ltd (BIA) which is the peak industry body in Australia that represents the interests of boating which includes designers, manufacturers, importers, brokers, insurers, retailers, charters, yacht and boat clubs, marinas, events, surveyors, and trades from boat builders to marine mechanics/ technicians, and more.

The national boating economy generates significant benefits through employment. Last year the industry reported national turnover of \$9.55 billion, directly employed more than 26,000 people with more than 8000 contractors. Seventy-five per cent are in small family businesses, employing local workers and supporting local communities. With more than 85 per cent of the population living within 50km of the coast, it is little wonder that almost 1 in 5 households have a boat or watercraft. It is estimated that some 5 million people across Australia go boating every year.

BIA is concerned about the direction the department is taking with its Discussion Paper for the Electrical Safety Act 2002 review. Our concerns include the following:

What appears to be a less than satisfactory consultation process. Especially as we have learnt that there are many other industry sectors across automotive and mining for example who were not made or became aware of the proposals until recently. For example, the marine industry we were not alerted to the proposed changes until the deadline was closing.

BIA believes the proposal regulatory changes need far more consultation with industry. BIA also recommends such regulation should be coordinated nationally via COAG. There should also be a body of work on upskilling skills and trades to better adapt to electrification and being clear about the functional capability description of where skills and trades meet Electricians. Not the least of the challenges for the marine sector would be how to manage breakdown offshore!

BIA recommends further consultation and that should include targeted consultation with impacted industry bodies including the Boating Industry Association.

Your sincerely,



**Neil Patchett**  
General Manager Government & Public Relations  
Boating Industry Association Ltd

cc., Minister for Industrial Relations, the Hon. Grace Grace MP