

1999

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1999

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

**Circulated by authority of
Brendan Smyth MLA
Minister for Urban Services**

Electricity (Amendment) Bill 1999

OUTLINE

This is an amending Bill. It amends the *Electricity Act 1971* (the "Principal Act").

The amending Bill deals with two issues, the first concerning providing legal status to allow trainees and school students to perform electrical wiring work whilst undergoing an accredited training course. The second defines telecommunication cabling as not being electrical wiring work for the purposes of the Act and requires telecommunications workers to complete an accredited training course to perform telecommunication cabling.

Trainees and School Students

The Principle Act provides that a person shall not carry out electrical wiring work unless the person holds the appropriate licence or is an apprentice employed by the holder of an electrical contractor's licence. This restricts training in the electrical industry to only those who enter into an apprenticeship training agreement. Recently introduced training initiatives recognise the role traineeships and school based training plays in expanding employment opportunities for young people in the electrical industry.

The amending Bill provides for trainees and school students to perform electrical wiring work whilst undergoing an accredited training course.

Telecommunication Workers

Due to the implementation of the Commonwealth Government's Competition Policy, statutory immunity for telecommunication workers from State and Territory electrical licensing legislation has ceased. The Principle Act therefore now requires telecommunication workers to be licensed as electricians. The amending Bill defines telecommunication cabling as not "electrical wiring work" and requires telecommunication workers to complete an accredited training course to perform telecommunication cabling work. This is to maintain the high standard of training and electrical safety in the industry.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

CLAUSE NOTES

Formal clauses

Cluses 1, 2 and 3 are formal clauses that deal with the short title of the Bill and its commencement and give the meaning of references in the Bill to “the Principal Act”.

Interpretation

Clause 4 amends section 3 of the Principal Act by defining “telecommunication cabling” work as not being “electrical wiring work”

Part IV-Electrical Wiring Work

Persons who may carry out electrical wiring work

Clause 5 (a) amends section 25 of the Principal Act by tying together sub-sections “ b, and c”.

Clause 5 (b) inserts proposed new subsections 25(d), 25(e) and at the end of these subsections and new section (section 2).

Paragraph 25 (d) provides for a trainee to perform electrical wiring work whilst he or she is undertaking an accredited training course in electrical wiring work and is employed by the holder of an electrical contractor’s licence. He or she must also be working under the supervision of a qualified licensed electrician.

Paragraph 25(e) provides for a student at a secondary college in the Territory to perform electrical wiring work whilst he or she is undertaking an accredited course in electrical wiring work and is under the supervision of a qualified licensed electrician.

Section 15(2) defines “accredited training course” and “trainee” as having the same meaning as in the *Vocational Education and Training Act 1995*.

Persons who may carry out incidental electrical work

Clause 6 inserts a new section after section 26A of the Principal Act restricting persons from carrying out telecommunication cabling work unless the person has completed accredited course in telecommunication cabling. It defines “accredited course” as having the same meaning as in the *Vocational Education and Training Act 1995*. It also defines “telecommunication cabling work” and provides penalties for non-compliance.