

Media Release

Energy Safe Victoria

15th May 2020

ESV to review electrical inspection regime

Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) will conduct a comprehensive broad-based, independent review assessing the entire electrical inspection regime.

The review will begin with an examination of the inspection and certification of solar system installations.

“This is an opportunity to take stock of where we are at the moment, how electrical inspectors operate and how we can make improvements,” Director of Energy Safety Marnie Williams said.

Electrical inspectors are licensed by ESV and they ensure community safety by inspecting the work of electricians on major or complex installations. This includes solar installations, household electrical wiring, mains switchboards and high voltage installations.

“Their role is key to Victoria’s electrical safety regime, so it is appropriate that we take stock of the governance arrangements and the performance of inspectors,” Ms Williams said.

“There has been small but worrying trend of defects found post inspection that required rectification work. This trend must be reversed immediately and the review is the right way to determine what needs to be done.”

ESV will engage independent consultants to carry out the review. The review will engage industry and representative groups, government including agencies such as Solar Victoria, trade unions and inspectors themselves.

A final report from the review is due by December.

The first phase of the review will focus on the regime as it relates to the inspection and certification of solar system installations and make recommendations for shorter term changes and improvements to safety outcomes in an interim report.

Phase two will encompass the entire regime and a final report.

Background

There are two types of electrical installation work under the Electricity Safety Act:

- Prescribed electrical installation work must be inspected by a licensed electrical inspector, licensed by ESV. The most common types of prescribed electrical installation work are household mains, mains switchboards and solar generation systems
- Non-prescribed electrical installation work is self-certified by the licensed electrical worker (the electrician). ESV audits a percentage of non-prescribed installations.

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