

What's happening...

Electrical Workers and Contractors Licensing Board



Electrical contractor licence portability

Clarification of Prime Minister's announcement 1 October 2007

On Monday 1 October the news media reported Prime Minister, John Howard, as saying federal and state governments had finalised arrangements for electrical contractors to use their state-issued licences anywhere in Australia.

Mutual recognition arrangements for individuals who hold an unrestricted electrical contractor licence have not yet been finalised, as all Australian governments need to formally approve a Ministerial Declaration under section 32 of the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992*. Accordingly there is currently no change to the existing electrical contractor licensing requirement.

Under the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992* the mutual recognition principle entitles a person registered for an occupation in one state of Australia, after notifying the local registration authority of a second state, to be registered in the second state for the equivalent occupation. Pending such registration, the person may carry on the equivalent occupation in the second state.

An individual, who holds an unrestricted electrical contractor licence from another state or territory, conducting an electrical business in the Northern Territory, must therefore apply for a Northern Territory electrical contractor licence in order to lawfully undertake such work. The person may, however, undertake that work whilst their application is being processed.

When the Ministerial Declaration is approved, out-of-state electrical contractors will still require a Northern Territory electrical contractor licence in order to operate lawfully in the Territory.

Colin Freeman
Chairman
Electrical Workers and Contractors Licensing Board

Contact Details:

First Floor
Darwin Plaza
41 Smith Street Mall
Darwin NT 0800

Postal Address:
GPO Box 4821
Darwin NT 0801

Telephone: (08) 8981 5435 or 8999 5516
Facsimile: (08) 8999 5141
Email: electrical.licensing@nt.gov.au
Web: www.electricallicensing.nt.gov.au