

From: Solarspot [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 31 May 2021 2:02 PM
To: DPC:SAPC <sapc@sa.gov.au>
Subject: Reform of the Office of the Technical Regulator

Hi,

I thought it prudent to make a submission following an interesting exchange with the OTR electrical division.

I would like to suggest the current OTR is simply not fit for purpose in 2021, in so far it simply cannot be adequately resourced, its responses are not consistent, its 'whack a mole' heavy handed approach to regulation and its inability to provide industry wide on going professional development makes re-evaluation necessary. The fact is the, Electrical industry has broadened immensely in the last 20 years, AS/NZS 3000 nearly doubled in size, and fragmentation of skilled sectors leaves the current OTR grossly inadequate. I believe there are perfectly adequate private sector models utilised on other jurisdictions that can be adapted to suit SA's situation perfectly well.

I left the UK many years ago but would like to suggest a similar approach would not only work well in SA but also reduce the burden on the public purse.

I believe the scope to the OTR should be curtailed to that of administering a system of Approved Organisations, NECA for example could adapt and other RTO's to offer some competition to licenced electricians. These organisations would administer a system where registered inspectors have to visit every licenced electrician once a year. In that visit they can cover developments in the industry sector the sparky is in, broad overview or regulatory changes and inspect some of the electricians work. They can check insurance, training certificates, and on-going professional development. Without this endorsement, from sole traders through to being part of a large business, the ability to create ECOC's will not be possible. This in turn would also reduce the need for roving inspectors, who achieve little but burn the public purse.

This brings me onto the OTR currently overseeing the ECOC system. This type of system software could be out sourced to approved private sector providers, with the ability to adapt and modify quickly they can provide to requirements set by the OTR, all of which which feed into a central OTR database. Property owners should then be made aware that without correct records, insurance claims may be void should anything arise. This sort of approach encourages a natural improvement of workmanship and general industry pride. The additional cost is effectively then passed onto the customer effectively encouraging the tradesperson to maintain a high level of workmanship.

There is much that can be done to improve the energy and compliance sector, I hope you will consider my suggestions.

Best wishes

Jason Hicks B-Eng (Hons) – Fully Qualified Solar Electrician –Battery Installer–Director of the Smartest Solar Company in Adelaide! 1300 777 688 / [REDACTED]

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