



**CONNIE BONAROS** MLC  
**FRANK PANGALLO** MLC  
Members of the Legislative Council  
Parliament of South Australia

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Parliament of South Australia

Mr Malcolm Richards  
Chief Executive Officer  
Master Electricians Australia

Via email: [mrichards@mea.asn.au](mailto:mrichards@mea.asn.au)

Dear Mr Richards

***Re - Electrical Industry Election Priorities for Master Electricians Members and Staff***

Thank you for sending SA-BEST a copy of your booklet outlining your key election priorities.

The document is very informative, and we are pleased to be able to provide you with our responses prior to the South Australian election. We would also like to extend an invitation to meet with you after the election to pursue some of the commitments you outline.

As you would be aware, Connie and I are Members of the Legislative Council and are not up for re-election in 2022, but we are hopeful our two outstanding new SA-BEST candidates Ian Markos (former CEO of the Master Builders Association) and Dr Keyvan Abak (a well-respected mental health psychotherapist) will be elected to assist us to take forward more legislative reform, including those you have identified.

We are very supportive of your policies and suggestions to better protect life and property and a prospering electrical industry, especially with the rapid change that new technology will enable.

Please see attached our detailed responses which we are very happy for you to share to your members.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Connie'.

Hon Connie Bonaros MLC  
3 March 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Frank'.

Hon Frank Pangallo MLC

### **COMMITMENT SOUGHT**

- We call on a future South Australian government to take immediate action to change safety switch laws and support the mandatory fitting of safety switches on all safety switch capable circuits in all existing homes and workplaces.
- A phase in period to be incorporated into the legislation to allow the public to make the necessary changes without imposing an undue financial burden by mandating on the sale of a home or property or upon the change of a tenant in a rental property that the current owner upgrade the circuits to include safety switches on all circuits before sale or reletting the property.
- The funding of public awareness on the importance of safety switches being installed on every circuit in every home and the dangers of DIY electrical work.

*We strongly support this action. A reasonable phase in period to make sure that all existing stock comes up to standard will be helpful to landlords.*

### **COMMITMENT SOUGHT**

- We call on the South Australian Parliament to work with the Federal Government to create an independent authority (along the lines of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency model) to centralize the occupational licensing data under section 51(xx) of the Constitution.

*The government recently introduced legislation to harmonise builders licences across some states, which SA-BEST supported. We would strongly support the standardised, centralised licensing of the electrical trades. We note trades are often highly mobile and this will improve their ability to respond to areas of high demand, in a crisis for example.*

### **COMMITMENT SOUGHT**

- A future South Australian Government to support and advocate on behalf of the Electrotechnology industry to have its own Industry Skills Cluster, recognizing its unique reach across all facets of the economy and not just building and construction.

*SA-BEST are strong advocates for South Australian based industry skill centres, and with the advent of new technologies around electric cars and homes and the componentry required to be manufactured and maintained, we see this as essential to keep ahead of the skills and experience that will be required to compete and participate in this emerging industry.*

### **COMMITMENT SOUGHT**

- A future South Australian Government urgently accelerate the uptake of soak tariffs and other time of use (TOU) tariffs to drive consumption patterns and make the best use of the resource of domestic and commercial solar PV installations.

- A future South Australian Government promote a preference for bi-directional enabled EV's in consumer purchasing incentives.
- A future South Australian Government preference bi-directional enabled EV's in government fleet procurement policy.
- The future South Australian enhance or evolve funding into battery and EV incentives.

*SA-BEST called for a full enquiry into the entire EV industry which will commence after the election. It will extend to the bi-directional enabled EVs and the necessary consumer purchasing incentives, rebates or tax breaks needed to expedite this.*

*We strongly support the South Australian government fleet becoming bi-directional enabled EVs. We believe there is huge potential and an urgency for South Australia to become involved in research and development, manufacturing and service industries associated with renewable energy, batteries, EVs and home solar systems that will deliver savings to South Australian consumers whilst also benefiting the environment and reducing South Australia's dependence on other power sources.*

#### **COMMITMENT SOUGHT**

- The South Australian Parliament to review the POC agenda and metering rules landscape with a focus on improved processes and DER opportunities.
- A future South Australian Government to change legislation to enable suitably qualified Electrical Contractors to become authorized service providers (ASP). Empowering them to install and exchange electrical meters to reduce delays and increase efficiencies for consumers and reduce costs for distribution network operators, metering providers and the consumer.
- The South Australian Parliament review the effectiveness of current “ring fencing” arrangements where DNSP's have metering provider businesses in addition to their network provision status and the negative effect and delays experienced in coordinating metering changes.
- In line with our submission on DER, rationalize some of the agencies and processes in the retailing and metering environments to remove complexity and promote efficiency.

*SA-BEST is not expert or highly knowledgeable in this field and would be broadly supportive pending additional information from industry. We agree there are a lot of agencies and processes at federal and state level that could be looked at to better co-ordinate and streamline. We support Electrical Contractors being able to diversify to ASPs to keep pace with industry developments.*

#### **COMMITMENT SOUGHT**

- The South Australian Parliament seek urgent agreement with other States for a one tier Nationally consistent Security of Payments system.
- Consideration of the implementation of deemed statutory trust accounts to secure monies owed to sub-contractors.

- The South Australian Parliament seek urgent agreement with the States for the nationally consistent application of recommendation 84 of the Murray Review regarding Unfair Contract

Terms.

- Call for, and support industry in reviewing Australian Standards (AS) AS 2124 and AS 4000, which have not been reviewed since the mid 1990's and do not reflect current contract law standards.

*SA-BEST has done a lot of work since 2018, when we were first elected in regard to a security of payments system for the building industry. We are very supportive of a statutory trust account being established to secure monies owed to sub-contractors, and we also want to see legislation whereby companies that have folded owing big debts to sub-contractors cannot be easily reborn to do the same over and over again.*

*We support implementation of the Murray review recommendations and also a review of the AS standards. We would be pleased to discuss these further with you to progress them.*

### **COMMITMENT SOUGHT**

- The South Australian Parliament to repeal all COVID restrictions and emergency legislation
- All business and tracking information gathered during the pandemic for the purposes of contact tracing be destroyed.

*SA-BEST has already been strongly calling for this and will continue to pursue it in the new parliament. We were very outspoken about the government refusing to allow the House of Assembly to sit until after the election because this meant that the emergency powers and COVID-19 measures could not be scrutinised or removed until after the election. We have been strong advocates for checks and balances on the powers granted to various officers, such as the Commissioner of Police and the Chief Health Officer, including that these are not extended unnecessarily.*

*We have spoken many times in the Legislative Council about the need for all QR code data, and any contract tracing information to be destroyed and not used for other purposes.*