1. The Electrical Regulatory Authorities Council (ERAC) is the peak body of electrical safety regulators in Australia and New Zealand and acts to ensure electrical safety regulatory systems are contemporary and harmonised wherever possible.
2. A number of emerging challenges and inconsistencies with the current electrical equipment safety systems across Australia led ERAC to commission a comprehensive and formal review in 2007. A number of recommendations were made to improve and harmonise the Electrical Equipment Safety System (EESS) and were accepted by ERAC at that time.
3. In its role as chair and secretariat for ERAC, Queensland’s Electrical Safety Office has been facilitating the process to implement the review recommendations, including preparation of a national Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) on the proposed EESS. As a national document, the RIS has been prepared in accordance with the Federal Office of Best Practice Regulation’s guidelines.
4. A preliminary RIS was released for public comment in December 2008. Based on submissions received and further industry consultation, a preferred option was developed in the Final RIS for the Proposed EESS and, approved by ERAC in May 2009.
5. The proposed new electrical safety system will assist Government to meet its Q2 ambitions of supporting safe and caring communities by working to eliminate the human and financial cost of shock, injury and property damage that can be caused by unsafe electrical equipment used by consumers and installed in consumers’ premises.
6. In order for the RIS to be recognised nationally, the document must be signed by relevant Ministers from at least four jurisdictions, which may include New Zealand, through the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement.
7. Cabinet noted the National RIS for the Proposed EESS and endorsed the implementation of the new system.
8. Cabinet approved that the Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations, as Queensland’s Minister responsible for electrical safety sign the RIS. To give the RIS effect, it will not be released until such time as Ministers from more than four jurisdictions have signed it.
9. *Attachments*
* Nil.