



RIS Ref: DHPW1033-0319

File Ref: DOC19/2146

11 October 2019

Ms. Anne Neuendorf
Acting Director, Building Legislation and Policy
Department of Housing and Public Works
63 George Street
BRISBANE, QLD 4000

Dear Ms Neuendorf

Decision Regulatory Impact Statement—Mechanical Services Regulation

Thank you for your enquiry on 1 August 2019, and further information provided to 8 October 2019, seeking advice on the adequacy of the 'Mechanical Services Regulation' Decision Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS).

Proposal

The *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018*, which was assented to on 11 September 2018, amended the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991* to provide for the introduction of a mechanical services licensing framework covering the 'specialist streams' of air-conditioning and refrigeration, plumbing and medical gas.

Following this legislative change, the Department of Housing and Public Works (the department) released a Consultation RIS on 6 June 2019, seeking stakeholder views on the proposal to create occupational and contractor mechanical services licences for each of the specialist streams. The Consultation RIS presented:

- the proposed technical aspects of each licence class, such as scopes of work and qualifications
- the impacts of the proposed arrangements to transition industry to the new framework.

The Consultation RIS was open for comment until 5 July 2019 and written submissions, email and survey responses were received by the department.

Assessment of Decision RIS

The purpose of a Decision RIS is to reflect the outcomes of consultation on proposed regulatory amendments, including how stakeholder views were taken into consideration in developing a final recommendation.

The Decision RIS provided by the department:

- maintains the licence classes presented in the Consultation RIS and provides an analysis of the estimated impacts of the proposed licences on individual workers and contractors, including those currently unlicensed
- confirms the department's position that a single occupational licence, for refrigeration and air-conditioning, excluding design work and the preparation of plans and specifications, be adopted
- amends, based on stakeholder feedback, the proposed technical qualifications presented in the Consultation RIS for some licences—notably the site supervisor licence for refrigeration and air-conditioning and the nominee supervisor and contractor licences for mechanical services—plumbing.



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Notwithstanding that the decision to introduce a mechanical services licence, via legislative amendment, has already been made, the Queensland Productivity Commission (the Commission) considers the Decision RIS adequately presents the results of consultation, details of the department's response to stakeholder feedback and provides a discussion of the impacts. Given this, the Commission considers the Decision RIS is adequate to support the decision maker's consideration of the proposal.

Consistent with the Queensland Government Guide to Better Regulation (the guidelines), the final Decision RIS and this letter of adequacy will be published on the Commission's website following approval of the RIS for release.

Please contact Sean Mackay, Principal Analyst on (07) 3015 5149 if you require any additional information or guidance in relation to the above comments or the guidelines in general.

Yours sincerely



Christine Tozer

Team Leader