

Media Release

Energy Safe Victoria

7th September 2020

ESV to introduce licensing for lineworkers

Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) will increase safety for Victorian lineworkers with the introduction of a licensing regime from 1 January 2021.

Licensing increases ESV's visibility and oversight of lineworkers, ensuring safety and professional standards are maintained.

Victoria has the best record nationally in terms of lineworker fatalities with three deaths in the last 20 years. Licensing will ensure that Victoria remains the safest state, with the objective of zero fatalities.

Licensing also ensure lineworkers have the minimum qualifications and experience required to work on transmission, distribution and traction networks.

ESV is working closely with lineworkers, distribution businesses, unions and other industry associations on the development of the regime.

Both new and existing lineworkers have to either register with ESV or confirm their existing registration before 4 December 2020 in order to receive their first five year licence at no cost. Charges may apply for licence applications after this date.

ESV will also introduce continuing a professional development (CPD) for licensed electrical workers. Planning for CPD has commenced.

Adequate completion of CPD will be a requirement for licence renewal from 2023, beginning with licensed electrical workers. Consultation with industry will take place on the potential for separate CPD scheme for lineworkers.

As part of the development of the new licensing regime, ESV has released a regulatory impact statement (RIS) and the associated regulations for consultation. Submissions can be made on both documents up until September 25.

Victoria has about 1800 active lineworkers. Many work for the major electricity distribution businesses. Rail operators also employ a significant number.

For more information and registration go to www.esv.vic.gov.au

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