

19<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Re: Proposed removal of Painting & Decorating Licence.

Licence No:

Name: Stephen Cawood.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing this submission as I am concerned to where the building industry in particular the Painting & Decorating industry is heading moving forward into the future. Here is a brief history of my involvement with the Painting & Decorating industry and the reasons why I can provide commentary to what I believe should change to better the current market place.

- 1980-1983: Started a (4) year indentured apprenticeship with The Sydney University Office of Works maintaining the buildings within the Camperdown precinct.
- 1980-1982: Complete a (3) year course at Granville TAFE, on completing this course I attained a credit grade with my Craftsman Certificate of Proficiency.
- 1983-1995: Worked for multiple painting contractors as a foreman/supervisor controlling small to medium teams of works from residential repaint to large commercial new work.
- 1995-2006: Self employed performing mostly commercial office fit-out and high end residential new and repaint work.
- 2006 till current: Have had multiple sales roles across multiple market segments. These include automotive coatings, protective coatings, roof coatings and decorative coatings.

Over this period of time I have had direct contact with thousands of Painting and Decorating businesses, these professionals are hard working and proud of their trade. To hear that the NSW government is now considering the removal of licencing is a major concern to not just myself but many other licenced applicators.

I understand that to provide compliance and licencing is a cost to the government but to simply remove licenses will not only destroy the industry but also the many of the small businesses who rely on their license to distinguish them apart from the shoddy unskilled workers.

It is not only the small to medium business who will suffer by also the consumers who will unwittingly contracting with unskilled painters. This in turn will then lead to the end consumer losing any right of response to unfairly completed works.

It is my opinion that licencing needs to become more compliant as per the proposed system considered in the late 1990's, CPD and industry seminars would actually assist in making the Painting and Decorating industry appear more professional.

Does Minister Kean or the policy makes understand that the application of coatings to achieve the desired film build to protect and preserve a range of substrates is of a highly technical nature?

The amount of technical site visits I have been involved with in just over (13) years in sales highlights this concern. A product with integrity sold to an incompetent applicator leaves the manufacturer exposed to a potential claim, unskilled applicators tend to omit steps which fully trained and licensed professionals already know and leaving the consumer with an end product which is inferior. Paint manufacturers providing warranties in some instances of up to (15) years can be left with potential claims, I have seen instances where the failures are occurring within (12) months due to non-compliance of basic AS 2311 Painting of Buildings standards. A standard which professional Painters and Decorators are aware of.

My personal thoughts regarding licencing is to increase compliance within the residential market and migrate to include the commercial market place. Advanced prior learning institutions are also granting licences to anyone that can simply "tick the boxes".

If the NSW government is to remove the licencing for the Painting & Decorating industry I would then urge industry affiliates such as the Master Painters Association to consider the possibility commencing a class action on behalf of all licenced tradesmen. There are many applicators that have been compliant for many years, this historic compliance can't simply be turned off without compensation. My comments will be backed by the fact that these applicators may have to complete against unskilled opposition in the future which should not happen.

In summary "*no one has ever died from an incorrectly installed coating system*", the outcomes however can be horrendous and costly to repair. This financial burden will then be passed onto the consumer and without some kind of governance will allow unscrupulous businesses to thrive and continue to trade unchecked. I urge anyone within this department to conduct a full seminar with an open forum for all current licence holders to attend, I'm sure that if this proposal was a consideration for the carpentry, plumbing or electrical industries the MBA would be protesting vigorously.

I believe that with almost (40) years within the Painting & Decorating I encourage you to make contact with me personally as I would discuss this will you further.

Kind regards

Stephen Cawood

A list of tasks and potential coating systems an applicator can possibly use include the following:

- Identification of lead coatings and the safe removal and disposal of.
- Sanding and abrading of aged coating as a part of preparation AS 2311.(Dust Exposure)
- Asbestos identification and removal, encapsulations of.
- Acrylic coatings application, product contains titanium dioxide.
- Alkyd coatings such as high gloss enamel, turps based.
- Elastomeric coatings such as Granosite, Armawall, Acratex.
- Steel protection coating systems, Zinc rich, 2 pak epoxy primers and Polyurethanes.
- Roof coatings and membranes.
- Waterproofing membranes to external facades.
- Epoxy floor coatings.
- Non slip floor coatings to achieve an AS R or P slip rating.
- Anti-graffiti coatings.
- Electrostatic spray application.
- Airless spray application.
- HVLP spray application.
- Working from heights stage or scaffolding.
- Wallpapering.