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**From:** Robin Ottawa  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 August 2018 7:28 AM  
**To:** Policy  
**Subject:** Home Building Licensing Reforms,

Department of Finance, Services and Innovation,

I would like to object to the removal of licensing for the Painting and Decorating Industry for the following reasons;

- Huge cost to the consumer if work is poorly carried out.
- Knowledge and training required in dealing with lead and Asbestos.
- Training required to safely work at heights.
- Knowledge and training required to deal with poisonous paints and thinners.
- It's insulting to tradesmen who have spent 4 years doing an apprenticeship.

Your policy document states that the NSW State Government wants to make it easier for small business. Your payroll tax is by far the most restrictive and unfair monetary disincentive to any reasonable sized small business. Businesses should receive tax breaks for employing more staff.

I have checked with the Master Painters Association and they were NOT consulted for this policy document, as they weren't previously when you removed the requirement for internal painting licences. This was snuck through near a Christmas break a few years ago, as confirmed at the time by the Shadow Minister for Fair Trading.

As a small business owner I am expected to comply with numerous requirements, paying tax, work health and safety, superannuation, home building act and I do.

When my competitors pay all these costs my business is competitive in pricing and I get work for my 30 painters, and this flows through the economy. Not your proposed dumbing down of trades and prices then profit, this is a race to the bottom.

When businesses don't pay the above required cost it creates an uneven playing field and this is uncompetitive. I have reported businesses engaging in these unlawful practices and the relevant State Department is always they don't have the recourses to police their own laws. Mostly because these illegal businesses aren't registered and are too hard to track down. Although my business is in your systems, has appropriate paperwork and a fixed premises with assets the government can take if I haven't complied to your minefield of laws, not to mention the compliance and audit costs.

All the above problems are caused by the Government not enforcing its own rules. Make an example of a few so others fall in line, don't make it harder for legitimate employers to make a reasonable profit which can be handed to our employees, which gets spent in the economy.

Robin Ottawa  
Principal