



This month has been a turning point for our industry. From taking strong action against regulations that don't serve electricians, to achieving long-fought wins in training and skills governance, Master Electricians is standing up for members and delivering results.

In this issue:

- Action against the EWRB Gazette Notice
- Industry Skills Board – progress update
- Protecting your business with contracts and legal support
- Trade Master Training: Solar Course
- New Member Benefit: Health & Safety Support
- New Technical Support Manager
- Know your branch representatives

EWRB - Formal Complaint Lodged
Your opportunity to provide feedback

Action against EWRB

Master Electricians is actively working to protect the integrity of our profession and push back against regulations that do not serve our industry, including the recent Electricity (Prescribed Classes of Registration for Electrical Workers) Gazette Notice 2025 (2025-sI4191) issued by the Electrical Workers Registration Board (EWRB), which has sparked serious concern across the sector.

Following our last communication, we want to update you on the formal complaint that Master Electricians, together with NZEIA, has submitted to the Regulations Review Committee (RRC)—a specialist committee of Parliament that examines regulations. This complaint outlines significant issues with the Gazette Notice and presents grounds for the House of Representatives and the Government to take action to rework the regulation.

We also want to let you know that you too can have your say on this red tape issue too.

The Ministry for Regulation is inviting feedback from individuals, businesses, and industry bodies about regulatory issues through its [online portal](#)

Your input could help trigger investigations, inform broader regulatory reform, and influence future reviews of entire sectors or industries.

This is a valuable tool to share with your networks or to use when responding to anyone raising concerns about regulatory burdens. According to the Ministry's website:

- They welcome feedback on issues ranging from minor annoyances to major regulatory problems.
- Response times may vary depending on complexity, but the Ministry aims to keep submitters informed.
- With your consent, your contact details may be shared with other agencies that can assist.
- Submissions help guide future regulatory reviews and reforms.

If you have questions regarding licensing please refer queries to the EWRB on **0800 661 000**



Industry Skills Board Progress Update

Industry Skills Board – Progress Update

We're pleased to share an important milestone for our sector: the Government has formally approved the establishment of a dedicated Electrotechnology & IT Industry Skills Board (ISB).

What this means

For the first time, our industry will have its own standalone ISB — ensuring training, qualifications, and workforce development are designed by industry, for industry. This is something Master Electricians has strongly advocated for, and it represents a major win for our members and the wider electrotechnology sector.

Leadership & Governance

The ISB will be guided by an Establishment Advisory Group, chaired by Master Electricians Director, Mike Barr, to shape its early direction and ensure strong industry voice at the table. More detail on membership and how industry will be represented will follow as the group's work progresses.

Scope & Coverage

The final scope of the ISB reflects the proposals put forward during consultation. We're pleased to see that the feedback we submitted has been fully adopted by the Tertiary Education Commission. This means electrotechnology, IT, and related fields will now be under a single, fit-for-purpose ISB. [View the coverage areas here.](#)

Orders in Council

[Draft Orders in Council](#) — the legislative instruments that formally establish and empower the ISB — [are currently open for consultation](#). Master Electricians has provided feedback in support of:

- Ensuring funding stays with delivery and is not cross-subsidised.
- A rapid rollout of Workforce Based Learning (WBL) organisations, so industry sees benefits quickly.
- Strong compulsory industry engagement through Regional Skills Interest Groups (RSIGs), giving members a clear voice in training and qualification development.

Next Steps

With Government approval now secured, the focus is on standing up the governance structures and industry engagement processes. Once the Orders in Council are confirmed, the ISB will move into implementation — setting the future direction of training and qualifications for our industry.



**Smart preparation
protects your business**

Smart preparation protects your business - we're here to support you

At Master Electricians, we know our members take real pride in delivering top-quality work and upholding the highest professional standards. But even the most experienced contractors can run into challenges, especially when expectations aren't nailed down from the start.

Lately, we've seen more cases where jobs have gone ahead and there have been delays in payment, disputes, or clients going quiet when the bill arrives. These situations don't just cause frustration but they cost time, money, and unnecessary stress.

When you're scoping a new project - whether for a new client or someone you've worked with before - it's worth double-checking the basics:

- Who's the client? Are they an established business or a private individual, and do they have a solid payment history?
- Is the scope clear? Do you have the full scope of work in writing?

- What are the terms? Are payment expectations clear, fair, and realistic?
- Do you have a signed contract? A proper agreement protects everyone involved.
- What's their reputation? A quick online search or glance at reviews can be revealing.

If something doesn't feel right, trust your professional instincts. Sometimes the best decision is deciding not to take on a risky job.

Legal advice is part of your membership

Even with the best preparation, issues can still arise. That's why your Master Electricians membership includes access to free legal advice through our partners at Ford Sumner.

You're entitled to 30 minutes of advice at no cost through our legal partner Ford Sumner Lawyers - whether you need a contract reviewed, clarity on your obligations, or guidance through a dispute.

This support can help with:

- Reviewing or drafting contracts
- Payment and debt recovery
- Disputes with clients or subcontractors
- Health and safety matters
- Employment issues

Get in touch with Ford Sumner Lawyers on **(04) 910 3200** or helpdesk@fsl.nz. Often, a quick conversation with a legal professional is all it takes to prevent a small concern from becoming a major problem.



**Solar Course – Future-Proof Your Skills -
First courses sold out within days!**

Solar is one of the fastest-growing parts of our industry, and customers are demanding safe, compliant installs from trusted professionals. The Trade Master Solar Course has been designed to give you the theoretical knowledge and practical understanding you need to confidently carry out solar work.

Importantly, the course can also be used as supporting evidence when applying for the EWRB solar endorsement under the transitional (grandparenting) pathway, open until 1 September 2026.

Course benefits:

- Learn the essentials of compliant solar installations
- Strengthen your application for solar endorsement
- Position your business for growth in the renewable energy space

Book your spot on courses in **Wellington** and **Auckland** for the special member price of **\$720+GST**

[Book here now](#)



Be Part of Shaping the Future of Training

At Trade Master, we believe the best way to build world-class training is to listen directly to the people who use it every day — electricians like you. That's why we're launching the **Trade Master Advisory Group**: a collective of forward-thinking electricians who want to have their say on what training really matters.

This group will help us answer the big questions:

- What business skills do electricians need to grow stronger, more profitable companies?
- Which technical areas are evolving fastest, and where is upskilling most urgent?
- What soft skills — leadership, communication, customer service — make the biggest difference on the job?

By joining, you'll have a direct hand in shaping courses and resources that actually hit the mark. You'll be influencing training that helps sparkies stay compliant, competitive, and future-ready.

We're looking for people who:

- Want to see training built by the industry, for the industry.
- Have ideas (big or small) about what would make learning more relevant.
- Are keen to share feedback and experiences from the tools, the office, and everywhere in between.

Your voice won't just be heard — it will shape the next wave of Trade Master courses.

Register your interest today by emailing andreas@trademaster.co.nz and be part of something powerful.



Introducing Health & Safety Support for Master Electricians Members through KSM

Master Electricians has partnered with Karm Safety Management (KSM) Health & Safety to provide members with enhanced, practical support to help them meet and exceed workplace health & safety.

What Master Electricians Members Can Now Access

As part of their membership, electrical contracting businesses will receive 30 minutes per month of free, personalised health & safety advice from KSM. This is tailored support designed to help members navigate real-world challenges, improve safety performance, and ensure compliance with relevant health & safety legislation and best practice.

Key features of the offering include:

- One-on-one advice / consultation time: The 30 minutes per month are set aside so members can speak directly with health & safety experts from KSM. Whether you've got a concern about a site-specific hazard, need help interpreting regulations, or are wondering how to draft or improve your safety procedures, you'll have dedicated access.
- Review of Templates, Policies & Procedures: Master Electricians already provides members with a comprehensive library of health & safety templates, policies, and procedures. KSM can review how you're using these documents — or any systems you've developed yourself — to ensure they are fit-for-purpose, compliant, and effectively implemented in your business.

- Guidelines & Best Practice Materials: Advice on what is current, what works, and what is expected by regulators, to help members keep up with emerging trends or changes in standards.

Why This Matters: The KSM & The Value to Members of KSM

KSM is an established provider of workplace safety services across a range of industries. Their services include auditing, risk assessments, bespoke safety systems, cloud-based tracking of safety compliance, and ongoing support. They are both technically knowledgeable and pragmatic in their approach. (ksm.co.nz)

What this means for Master Electricians members:

- Practical, usable advice: Not just theoretical or generic guidelines, but real solutions that can be applied to your day-to-day operations.
- Cost savings: Having access to expert advice reduces the risk of non-compliance fines, incidents, or having to pay third parties at full commercial rates.
- Time savings: Templates and reviews help reduce the time you spend developing or fixing systems.
- Better safety outcomes: Safer workplaces reduce injuries, downtime, and improve morale. Also better reputation with clients and regulators.
- Continuous improvement: Because there's ongoing monthly access, you can steadily refine your systems, stay ahead of regulatory changes, and deal with issues before they become major.

How to Make the Most of the 30 Minutes with KSM

To get full value, here are some tips for members:

- Plan ahead: Think about what specific issue or question you want to raise before the 30-minute slot. Make a list of challenges or areas of uncertainty.
- Gather your documents: Have your Master Electricians templates, policies, or any existing health & safety documents ready so KSM can review them for compliance and effectiveness.
- Use follow-ups: Even though the free time is limited, you can use tools and resources between advisory sessions to act on advice and raise further questions next month.
- Engage your team: Safety is not just a manager's job. Make sure the improvements you implement are communicated and understood across your workforce.
- Track progress: Keep a record of what has changed, what the benefits have been (fewer near-misses, better compliance etc.), and review periodically to see if further support is needed.

Make the most of this new benefit now by contacting Mark **0800 SAFGUY (723 489)** or mark@ksm.co.nz today

New Technical Advisor

Nick Foster

Technical Advisor Nick Foster

Master Electricians is proud to welcome Nick Foster to the team as our new Technical Advisor.

Nick brings a strong mix of technical expertise and real-world experience to the role. A qualified Electrical Inspector, Nick has worked across a wide range of projects in the electrotechnology sector and developed a reputation for his practical, solutions-focused approach. His insight into compliance and standards will be a valuable resource for our members as they navigate an industry that continues to evolve with technologies such as solar, energy storage, and smart systems.

Outside of his professional career, Nick has shown the same commitment to service in his community as a volunteer firefighter, and he previously served in the Royal New Zealand Navy. These experiences have shaped his leadership, resilience, and dedication to helping others—qualities he brings into his work supporting Master Electricians members every day.

Reach out to Nick at techsupport@masterelectricians.org.nz or on 0800 50 66 88.

Your Branch Contacts

Get to Know Your Branch Committee

Your branch committee is made up of people like you — committed individuals elected to represent the interests of all members in our branch. These are the folks who meet regularly to tackle local issues, organise events, support members, and ensure your voice is heard.

Why it's worth knowing them and coming along to branch meetings:

- Voice and input: Meetings give you the chance to bring forward concerns, ideas or suggestions for how we do things locally.
- Stay informed: Policy changes, upcoming events, financial decisions, and how national issues are impacting your branch are all discussed.

- Build community & support: Being there connects you with others in the branch; it's a way to show solidarity and learn from each other.
- Leadership & growth opportunities: Learn more about how the branch works, perhaps even take on a role — every strong branch needs active members.

You can find a list of local branches and contact details for your [Branch President and National Presidents Advisory Forum member here](#).



Copyright @Microsoft Dynamics, All right reserved.
{{CompanyAddress}}
[Unsubscribe](#)