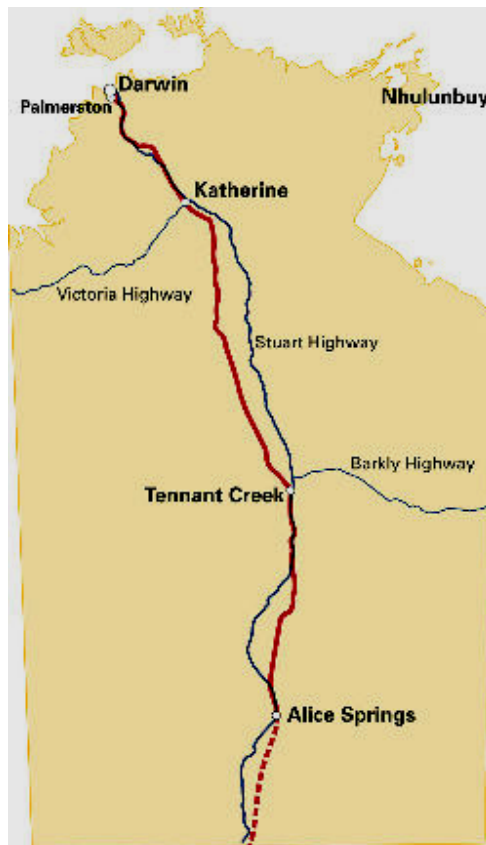


# Annual Report

## 2000/2001



**NORTHERN TERRITORY**  
**ELECTRICAL WORKERS AND CONTRACTORS**  
**LICENSING BOARD**

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# **ELECTRICAL WORKERS & CONTRACTORS LICENSING BOARD**

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Northern Territory Electrical Workers and Contractors Licensing Board is a statutory authority established under the *Electrical Workers and Contractors Licensing Act*. It exercises the powers conferred upon it by this Act relating to the licensing of Electrical Workers and Electrical Contractors to enhance electrical safety.

*The main objective of the Board is to ensure the safety of electrical workers, other workers, consumers and the general public.*

This is achieved by:

- ensuring that electrical work is carried out by persons who are competent and appropriately qualified to perform the work,
- ensuring that electrical workers and contractors working in the Northern Territory are properly licensed through a licensing and regulatory system that recognises local as well as equivalent licenses issued in other states and New Zealand, and
- investigating and conducting hearings into complaints relating to electrical work and taking disciplinary action where appropriate.

### **COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD:**

The Minister appoints the Members and Deputy Members to the Board under provision of the Electrical Workers and Contractors Act. These members are drawn from various representative groups within the Electrical Industry. The functions of the Boards are set out under section 17C of the Act.

The membership of the Board at 30 June 2001 comprised -

**Chairman**

**Mr C Freeman**

35 years experience in Government/private/consulting employment. Currently employed with NT Power Group; Member Institute of Engineers of Australia; current President of the Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists & Managers Australia, NT Branch Representing Electrical Engineers.

**Members:**

**Mr D Sachs**

Chief Electrical Safety Officer & representative of Government. Former Chief Electrical Inspector with PAWA. Northern Territory representative on various committees specific to the Electrical Industry.

**Mr A Berrill**

Electrical Contractor in the NT. President of NECA, NT Chapter. Member representing Electrical Contractors.

**Mr A Paton**

Northern Territory Organiser for the Communication, Electrical and Plumbing Union. Director of Mitac, Deputy Chair Electro-Tech & Utilities Training. Representing Electrical Workers.

**Mr S Versteegh**

Associate Director for Trades, Community Services, Horticulture and Remote Areas, Centrailian College  
Representing Registered Training Organisations.

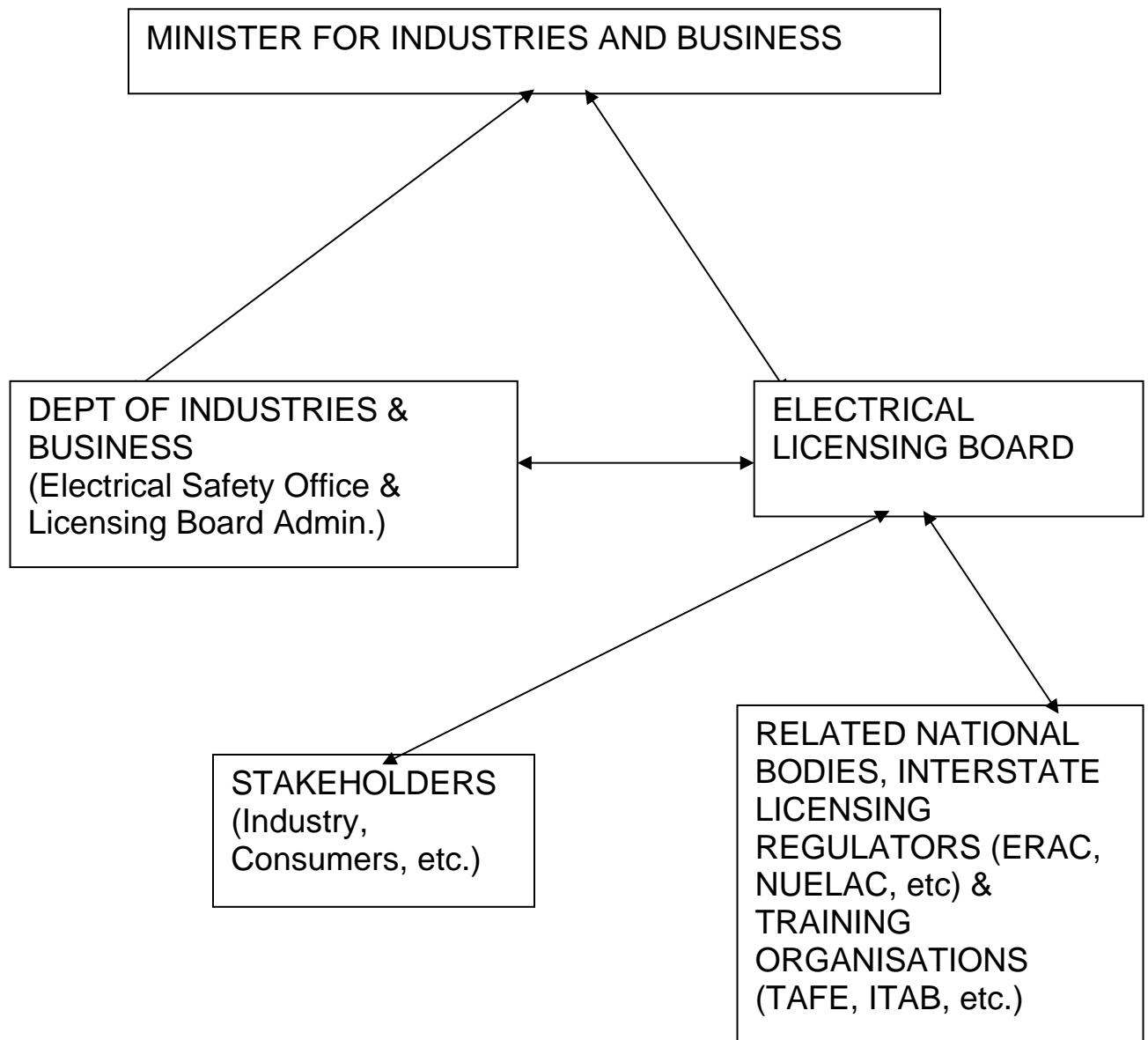
**Deputy Members**

**Mr D W Byerley**

Work's Coordinator Power and Water Authority, Alice Springs  
Deputy Member representing Electrical Workers for 16 years.

**Mr K Kernich**

23 years as an Electrical Contractor in the NT. Vice President of NECA, NT Chapter. NECA National Councillor. Member of Management Board of Electrotech and Utilities ITAB. Deputy Member representing Electrical Contractors.



The diagram above shows the Board's context and the environment in which it operates.

## **MEETINGS**

The Board maintains an open door policy. Any electrical worker, contractor, or employer, who wishes to attend a meeting to clarify or discuss any matter relating to the Act, or the Board's administration thereof, is invited to do so. In an effort to maintain this policy and to assist the industry, the Board periodically meets in centres outside of Darwin.

The Board met on 11 occasions during the last year. In April the Board met in Alice Springs and its June meeting was held in Nhulunbuy. Both these meetings were followed by open forums where those involved in the electrical industry were invited to discuss their views and concerns with the Board. On both occasions there was a healthy representation of industry with many topics discussed.

## **COMMUNICATIONS TO THE ELECTRICAL TRADES**

The Board endeavours to maintain a flow of information to the Electrical Industry through meetings, mail outs, open forums and articles in the Electrical Safety Magazine "The Conduit". A web site is currently being developed.

## **NATIONAL LIAISON**

The Board maintains a working relationship with licensing bodies in all States/Territories and New Zealand and participates in mutual recognition of licenses issued by those bodies. It is also represented on the Electrical Regulatory Authorities Council (ERAC) a national body that sets the standards for minimum qualifications and requirements for licensing with a view to achieving national uniformity. The National Uniform Electrical Licensing Advisory Committee (NUELAC) is an advisory committee set up to look into issues relating to uniformity of education, training and licensing. The Board also has a regular input into the proceedings of this committee.

### **PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING DEVELOPMENT**

The Board was represented on the Northern Territory regional workshops reviewing both the Lift Electrical / Mechanical Training Package and the National Electrotech Training Package for the Electrical Industry. The Board is also participating in the development of a revised training package for electricians by its involvement with NUELAC.

A national review of the training requirements for licensing electricians has led to the development of 66 essential capabilities and a capstone assessment. The new package is approved by NUELAC and ERAC and will solve some of the issues surrounding evidence of competence in both on and off-the-job training areas. The capstone assessment will address industry and regulatory concerns on the levels of competence being achieved by some trainees.

### **WEB SITE**

This year saw the development of a web site attached to the Department of Industry and Business at [http:// www.nt.gov.au/dib/wha](http://www.nt.gov.au/dib/wha). The site contains information for the electrical industry and it is intended to include information bulletins and application forms for licensing.

### **INVESTIGATION AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

The Board is required to investigate and deal with complaints on breaches of the Act.

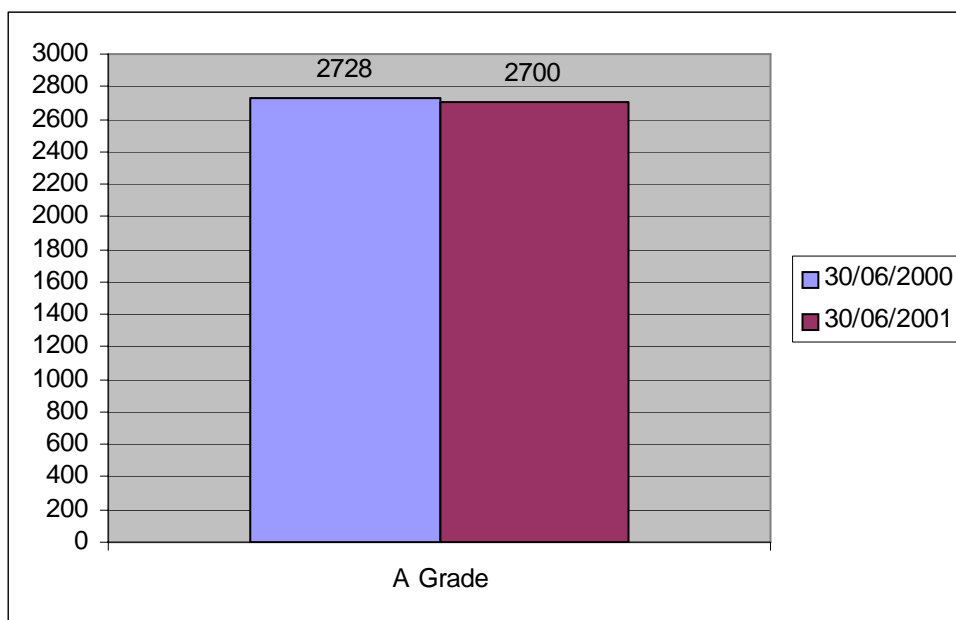
During the year the Board received 9 complaints relating to various breaches of the Act. These related to a variety of indiscretions including working without a Contractors Licence, unlicensed work and defective electrical work.

Resulting from these complaints three licence holders were interviewed and warned, a company was warned and advised in regard to licensing requirements, one licence holder had his mechanics endorsement removed, one licence holder was directed to undergo re-training, a contractor was admonished and two complaints were dismissed.

## **STATISTICAL INFORMATION**

### **A Grade Electrical Workers Licences**

A Grade Electrical Workers Licences are issued in the categories of Electrical Mechanic, Electrical Fitter, Electrical Linesman and Electrical Cable Jointer. These licences are issued to persons who have completed training in any of the areas listed above or who hold licences from other States/Territories and are eligible to be issued with the equivalent licence under mutual recognition. The total number of licences on issue on 30 June 2000 were 2728 and on 30 June 2001 were 2700.

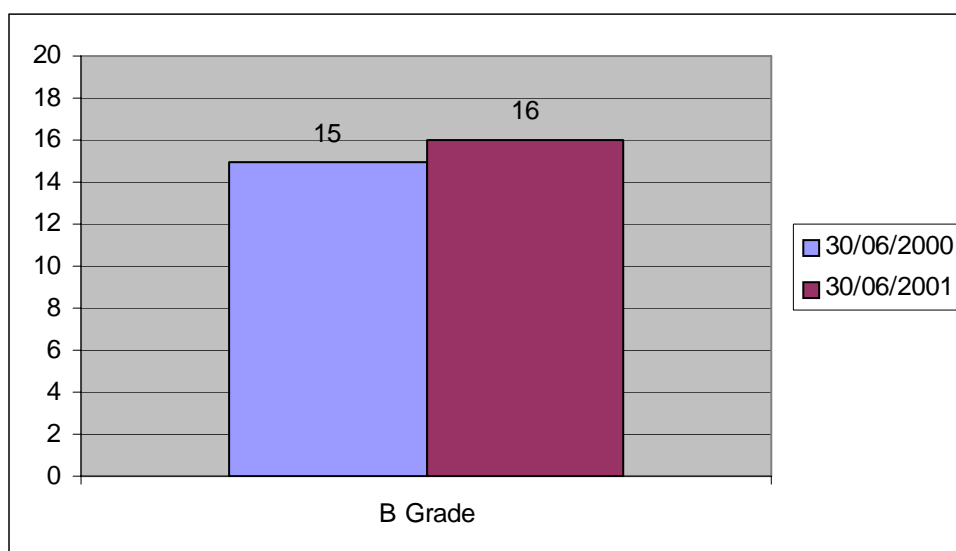


As can be seen from the graph the number is steady with a negligible drop of approximately 1% during the preceding 12 month period.

**B Grade Electrical Workers Licences**

B Grade Electrical Workers Licences are issued in the categories of Electrical Mechanic and Electrical Fitter. This category of licence requires the holder to work under the supervision of the holder of an A Grade licence.

In keeping with national policy, the holders of B Grade licences are encouraged by the Board to upgrade to A Grade licences. The total number of licences on issue were 15 as at 30 June 2000 and 16 as at 30 June 2001.



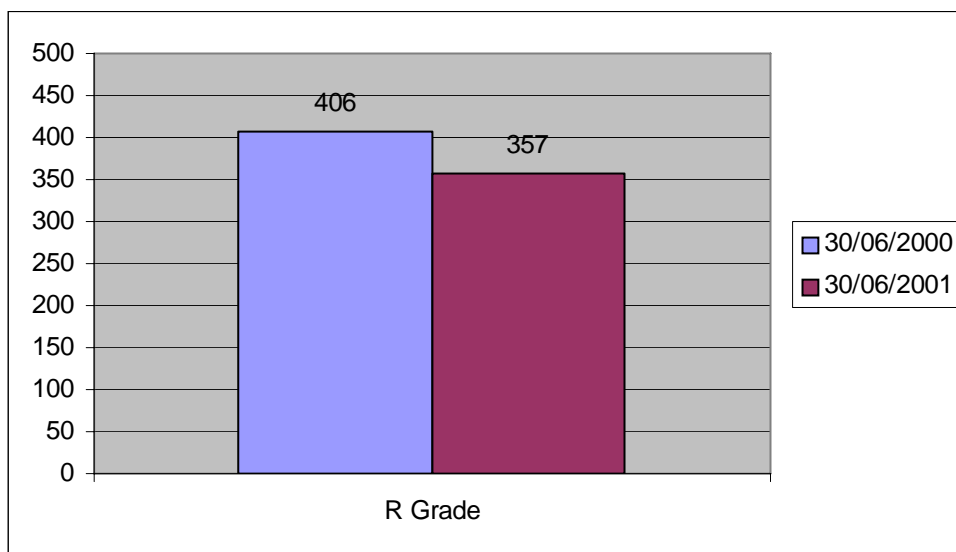
As can be seen from the graph, numbers have remained relatively stable with an increase of approximately 6%.



**R Grade Electrical Workers Licences (restricted licences)**

R Grade Electrical Workers Licences are issued in the categories of Refrigeration Mechanic and Instrument Fitter. Restricted licence categories for other appliance repair such as Plumbing and Gas fitting Equipment, Office Equipment, Domestic Equipment, Lab/Scientific Equipment, Industrial Equipment, etc are also included in the statistics below. The previously existing category of special permits which were due to be renewed during the year were converted to this category of licence.

The total number of restricted licences on issue were 406 on 30 June 2000 and 357 on 30 June 2001.



There has been a decline in total licences by 40, a drop of approximately 12%.

### Electrical Contractors Licences

Contractor Licences are annual licences and have a common expiry date of the 30<sup>th</sup> of June each year.

Total number of licences issued as at 30 June 2000 were 583 and as at 30 June 2001 were 533.

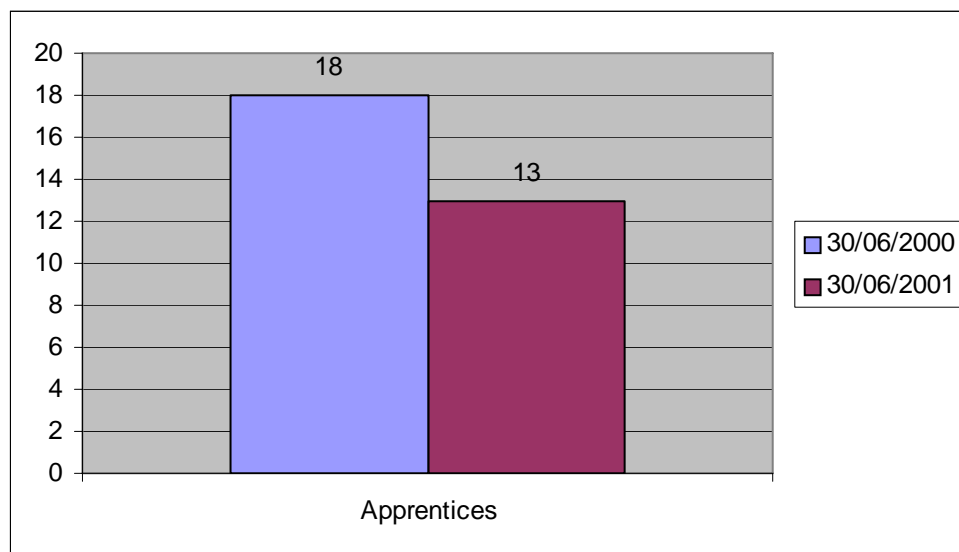


As can be seen from the above graph, a decline in numbers of 50 or approximately 9%.

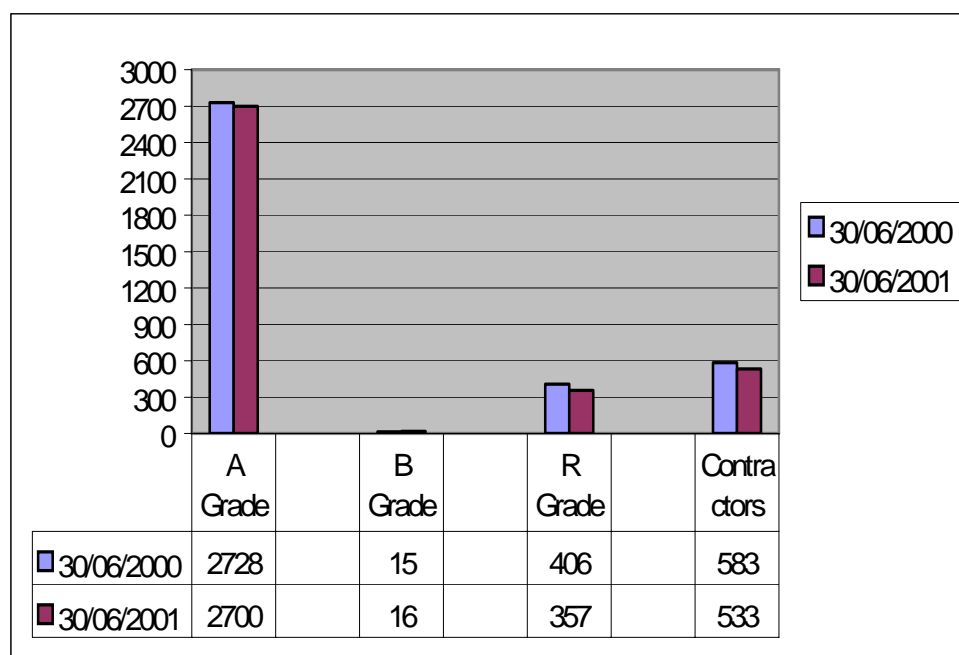
## Apprentices

Apprentices to trades that require a person to hold an electrical workers licence are registered with the Board.

During the year a total of 13 apprentices were registered with the Board. A 20% decrease in numbers of registrations was evident in the last 12 months.



## Total Number of Licence Holders



### **Staff**

The Department of Industries and Business provide administrative support to the Board. Two full-time staff members, the Executive Officer and the Licensing Officer, manage the day-to-day operation of the Board with additional administrative assistance as and when required.

### **Financial Statement**

The Department of Industries and Business control the Boards budget and finances. The Board's Financial Statement forms a part of the Department's report.

### **Executive Summary**

Electrical safety is one of the reasons for the Board's existence and we have been very effective in our use of departmental resources to this end. The past year has seen an increase in investigations of non-compliant and unlicensed work resulting in prosecutions. There have also been enhanced education programs for the industry by way of publications through to media, the Conduit (Electrical Safety Newsletter) and through trade seminars and forums. We continue our liaison with other government departments especially the Work Health Authority and other related functional sections like electrical safety.

We have integrated ourselves within the electrical industry, interacting with agencies such as the Territory Construction Association and the various training organisations. We have increased the number of successful investigations and prosecutions over the previous years and we look forward to a continuing improvement in our effectiveness in the building industry, under changing circumstances in industry in general. We are moving towards changes of the legislation and look forward to participating in the review of the Electrical Workers and Contractors Act and Regulations during the next 12 months. Special thanks to all the Board members for their voluntary contributions to the smooth operation of the Board.