



**The Hon. Matt Kean MP**  
Treasurer  
Minister for Energy and Environment

Mr David Blunt  
Clerk of the Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Blunt, *David*

As the Minister responsible for Mutual Recognition in NSW, please find attached the Government response to the *Mutual Recognition (New South Wales) Amendment Bill* by Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance for tabling in the Legislative Council.

Yours sincerely,

**Matt Kean MP**  
Treasurer  
Minister for Energy and Environment

*9.11.21*

Encl: Government Response to the Report for the Mutual Recognition (NSW) Amendment Bill Inquiry

**NSW Government Response to Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 1  
- Premier and Finance into the Mutual Recognition (New South Wales)  
Amendment Bill 2021 – Final Report No. 55**

RECOMMENDATION	NSW GOVERNMENT RESPONSE
<p><b>Recommendation 1</b></p> <p>That the Legislative Council proceed to debate the Mutual Recognition (New South Wales) Amendment Bill 2021 and the committee comments and stakeholders' views expressed in this report be addressed during debate in the House.</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p>The NSW Government notes the Committee's recommendation that the Bill be returned to the Legislative Council for debate.</p> <p>Since the tabling of the report by the Committee, the Bill was debated and passed Parliament on 22 June 2021.</p> <p>During the debate in the Legislative Council on 10 June 2021 Labor moved an amendment, which was supported by the Government. The amendment addressed the concerns identified by the stakeholders raised during the Inquiry.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 2</b></p> <p>That the Government conduct comprehensive, immediate and ongoing consultation with stakeholders across various trades and occupations which are not sufficiently harmonised, including electrical, teaching, mining, plumbing, medical gas, fire protection and building, maintenance and construction work, with the objective of an opt-in mechanism for occupations to be available once industry stakeholders agree they should be included in the AMR framework.</p>	<p><b>Supported</b></p> <p>The NSW Government supports ongoing consultation with stakeholders across the various occupations to ensure the automatic mutual recognition scheme (AMR) is implemented effectively.</p> <p>The Bill required the Treasurer to make a temporary exemption declaration for certain occupations and to undertake stakeholder consultation to remove the exemption and bring occupational licences into AMR.</p> <p>On 29 June 2021, the Treasurer signed the <i>Automatic Mutual Recognition (New South Wales) (Temporary Exemption – Various) Declaration 2021</i> under the <i>Mutual Recognition Act 1992</i> (MR Act) of the Commonwealth. The instrument provided a temporary exemption, to 30 June 2022, for various occupational registrations from the automatic deemed registration provisions of the MR Act.</p> <p>The twelve-month temporary exemption will allow the NSW Government to undertake comprehensive consultation to address the concerns raised by stakeholders. At the end of the consultation, occupational licences will either be transitioned into the scheme or, where a significant risk still exists, a longer-term five-year exemption under s42S of the MR Act will be provided.</p>