

# Explanatory Statement

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY AMENDMENT BILL 2026

SERIAL NO. 50  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHERN TERRITORY

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

### GENERAL OUTLINE

The Bill amends the *Electrical Safety Act 2022* (the Act).

The purpose of this Bill is to amend the Act to permanently legislate the current exemption made by the Electrical Safety Regulator for the need for a Certificate of Compliance to be completed for low-risk electrical work that involves 'like-for-like' replacement of electrical fittings or appliances that do not materially change the nature of the overall electrical installation.

### NOTES ON CLAUSES

#### **Clause 1. Short Title**

This is a formal clause which provides for the citation of the Bill. The Bill when passed will be cited as *Electrical Safety Amendment Act 2026*.

#### **Clause 2. Commencement**

This clause sets out how the amendment Act will be commenced. In this case the Act will commence on the day after the Administrator assents to the Act.

#### **Clause 3. Act Amended**

This Act amends the *Electrical Safety Act 2022*.

#### **Clause 4. Section 42 amended (Exemption from certificate of compliance requirements)**

This clause inserts a new exemption category in to section 42(1) of the Act to permanently legislate the current exemption made by the Electrical Safety Regulator under section 42(1)(c) of the Act on 1 January 2026, from the need for a Certificate of Compliance to be completed for low risk electrical work that involves 'like-for-like' replacement of electrical fittings and appliances that does not materially change, or require other modifications to the nature of the overall electrical installation. This type of replacement ensures the electrical installation's inherent safety is maintained without introducing new risks.

New paragraph (ba) of section 42(1) of the Act exempts electrical work that consists of the replacement of existing fittings or appliances with fittings or appliances of a similar nature at the same location. The provision also defines fittings and appliances of a similar nature as being things that do not materially differ in function or draw higher electrical load than the thing being replaced, and do not require a material alteration of the existing electrical installation to facilitate fixing of the fitting or appliance to the electrical installation. Examples of material alteration include fixing of additional conductors or circuit protectors to the electrical installation. Minor incidental work, such as the cutting and stripping of an existing wire to connect the fitting or appliances to the electrical installation, are not considered to be material alterations.

#### **Clause 5. Repeal of Act**

Clause 5 is a formal clause that repeals this Act on the day after it commences.