

## **Occupational Licensing (Solar Panel Site Plans) Exemption Order 2021**

DOC/20/94902

I, Peter John Graham, Administrator of Occupational Licensing, hereby make this Order under section 99 of the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005*.

### **Order Title**

Occupational Licensing (Solar Panel Site Plans) Exemption Order 2021.

### **Description**

This Order determines that licensed electrical practitioners engaged to perform solar panel installations which are Notifiable Building Work or Permit Building Work are exempt from the requirement to hold a licence as a building designer to perform the associated solar panel site plan design work for the panel installation.

### **Version**

1.0

### **Application**

This Order takes effect on its publication in the Gazette.

### **Date of Administrator's Approval**

11 August 2021

### **Date of Gazettal**

25 August 2021



**Peter Graham**  
Administrator of Occupational Licensing

## Document Development History

Version No.	Application Date	Sections amended
1.0 (This Order)	25 August 2021	N/A

## Definitions

**“Act”** means the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005*;

**“Building Services Licence”** has the same meaning as provided in the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005*;

**“Electrical practitioner”** has the same meaning as provided in the *Occupational Licensing (Electrical Work) Regulations 2018*;

**“Notifiable Building Work”** has the same meaning as provided in the *Building Act 2016* and is as specified in the Director’s Determination – Categories of Building and Demolition Work, made under the *Building Act 2016* and as amended from time to time;

**“Permit Building Work”** has the same meaning as provided in the *Building Act 2016* and is as specified in the Director’s Determination – Categories of Building and Demolition Work, made under the *Building Act 2016* and as amended from time to time;

**“Solar panel site plan design work”** means the preparation of a site plan indicating the proposed location of solar panels, sited on either a roofed structure, or a support structure at ground level, prepared for the purposes of seeking building approval under the *Building Act 2016*.

## **Exemption of specified design work:**

Under section 99 of the Act, it is determined that an electrical practitioner engaged to install solar panels is exempt from the requirement to hold a Building Services Licence as a building designer to perform the associated solar panel site plan design work where:

1. the installation has a proprietary mounting system for attaching the solar panels to a roof or to a support structure at ground level;
2. the solar panels and mounting system will be installed in accordance with their respective manufacturer's instructions;
3. the electrical practitioner is competent in the solar panel site plan design work and installation of such solar panel systems.

## **Explanatory Notes (not part of the Order):**

- a. This Exemption Order exempts licensed electrical practitioners from the requirement to be licensed as a building designer to prepare site plans for solar panel installations where they are also engaged to install those solar panels. The electrician may then provide their site plans to a building surveyor or a permit authority as part of the building approvals process for that work.
- b. Licensed electricians are already exempted from being licensed as a builder where they are responsible for performing electrical work that is also building work. This includes the installation of solar panels as per section 22A(2)(d) of the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005*.
- c. This Exemption Order does not limit the ability of the relevant building surveyor, engaged in respect of Notifiable Building Work or Permit Building Work, to request further information regarding the proposed solar panel installation or the solar panel site plan design work.