



Delivery of the *Building Confidence Report* National Framework

Public Report

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Delivery of the BCR National Framework

This report details progress in delivery of the Building Confidence Report National Framework by the ABCB's Building Confidence Report Implementation Team.

Background

In June 2017, the Building Ministers' Forum (BMF) commissioned Professor Peter Shergold AC and Ms Bronwyn Weir to undertake an independent examination of compliance and enforcement issues in building and construction which impact on the implementation of the National Construction Code (NCC). The resulting *Building Confidence Report* (BCR), released in March 2018, made a number of recommendations to Building Ministers on how to improve the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement systems in the building and construction industry.

The BMF agreed to establish a dedicated BCR Implementation Team in July 2019. The Team was located within the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) to leverage off the ABCB's resources and expertise. The Team was tasked with developing and reporting on a National Framework for the consistent implementation of the BCR recommendations, as well as the design, construction and certification of complex buildings.

The Team's work is guided by the National Framework as agreed by the BMF, and is in addition to work underway in individual states and territories. The Framework sets out a timeline for delivery of responses to the BCR recommendations with the ABCB reporting back to the BMF. Implementation of the recommendations will remain the responsibility of each state and territory. The status of each jurisdiction in relation to the BCR recommendations as at December 2019 is published on the [BMF website](#).

Consultation

The BCR Implementation Team has conducted extensive consultation with a range of industry and government stakeholders to inform the development and delivery of the National Framework.

To support these efforts, the team established two consultative groups: an Experts Panel, and an Industry Leaders Consultative Group (ILCG). The Experts Panel is a diverse group of eminent professionals who have been appointed in their personal capacity to provide the Team with confidential advice on how to deliver the BCR recommendations.

The ILCG, which also responds to the BMF's desire for industry to make a contribution to addressing problems in the sector, comprises a cross-section of industry associations and representatives who have volunteered to provide technical advice and act as a high-level forum for consultation on delivery of the National Framework.

The Experts Panel currently consists of the following members:

- Bronwyn Weir, Construction Law and co-author of the BCR;
- Jennifer Robertson, Corporate governance;
- Peter Gow, Public policy and engineering;
- Ari Akritidis, Building surveying;
- Peter Johnson, Fire engineering; and
- Robert Care, Engineering.

The ILCG is made up of the following representatives:

- Master Builders Australia;
- Housing Industry Association;
- Strata Community Association;
- Australian Institute of Building;
- Australian Institute of Architects;
- Australian Local Government Association;
- Australian Institute of Building Surveyors;
- Engineers Australia;
- Fire Protection Association Australia;
- Consult Australia;
- Property Council of Australia;
- Association of Accredited Certifiers;
- Australasian Fire Emergency Service Authorities Council;
- Australian Industry Group; and
- Master Plumbers Australia.

The BCR Implementation Team has commenced public and targeted consultation to support delivery of the National Framework. The ABCB's current consultations are set out at the [ABCB Consultation Hub](#). The BCR Implementation Team is also working with state and territory governments through BCR recommendation-specific working groups, where appropriate as part of existing committee forums, the distribution of material for comment, targeted engagement with individuals and through regular Board updates.

Latest actions

The BCR Implementation Team delivered its first report to the BMF in December 2019. As reported in the meeting's [Communique](#), the BMF noted the Team's development of amendments to the NCC, NCC training materials, and a definition of complex buildings, which will be used to trigger future regulatory interventions. Ministers also noted the National Framework and the Team's proposal to deliver a national approach to all BCR recommendations over the next 18 months.

Since the BMF Communique, the Team has conducted further consultation on the definition of complex buildings, developed a draft code of conduct for building surveyors and has commenced work on developing a holistic package of measures to provide a reliable conformity assessment framework as an alternative to a compulsory product certification system for high-risk building products. The Team has also undertaken work to develop proposals for nationally consistent registration requirements for design practitioners and building surveyors. NCC 2019 Amendment 1 will include specific requirements for practitioners to use in the development and documentation of Performance Solutions.

Next Steps

At the past two ABCB meetings, the Board noted the work of the BCR Implementation Team and agreed that the Team's priorities over the coming months should be to:

1. Finalise the draft National Model Code of Conduct for building surveyors.
2. Develop detailed proposals for nationally consistent registration requirements for building industry practitioners.

3. Continue developing NCC CPD training materials for building practitioners.
4. Proceed with developing a draft conformity assessment framework for building products.
5. Proceed with the introduction of measures to improve the documentation of Performance Solutions through the NCC.
6. Work with jurisdictions and key industry stakeholders to draft detailed specifications for the collection of building information including that to be stored in a digital building manual.
7. Progress with adding building terms and definitions data from state and territory legislation to develop a consistent terminology for defined terms used in the NCC, referenced standards and state and territory legislation.

In addition, at a meeting of the BMF on 23 April, it was agreed that the ABCB publish the definition for complex buildings on its website for a final consultation period to conclude in six months, during which time further work will be undertaken by the ABCB on the related regulatory interventions, in consultation with states and territories, and industry stakeholders.

Further Information

Further information on the BCR Implementation Team and its upcoming work is available on the [ABCB website](#). The team can be contacted at bcrimplementationteam@abcb.gov.au.