



The Hon Karen Andrews MP

Minister for Industry, Science and Technology

Min ID: MC19-001947

Ms Margaret Ward and Mr Mark Brant
Convenors
Australian Network of Universal Housing Design
PO Box 666
STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012

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Dear Ms Ward and Mr Brant

Thank you for your letter of 12 June 2019 concerning the integrity of the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) regulation impact assessment process to consider minimum accessibility standards for housing in the National Construction Code (NCC).

I note you have also written to my Building Ministers' Forum (BMF) colleagues, as such, I have copied them into my response for their reference.

The BMF acknowledges and appreciates this subject is of utmost importance to your organisation and many others that either have a relationship with the ANUHD or share its aspirations.

As you are already aware, the ABCB's robust regulation impact assessment process is conducted in accordance with the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Principles for Best Practice Regulation, which is a requirement under the ABCB's Intergovernmental Agreement. The ABCB has a proven track record of compliance with the Office of Best Practice Regulation in relation to its regulatory impact assessments, and the BMF is confident in its systematic and transparent approach.

In regards to public consultation, I am advised that the ABCB has conducted extensive public consultation on this subject and will continue to do so, including consultation with the Disability Reform Council. The Options Paper to inform this project was the subject of a series of public forums convened by the ABCB around the country, which amongst others targeted the participation of individuals and organisations nominated by the ANUHD.

Following this work, an Outcomes Report has been released containing a summary of the key issues raised by those who elected to make submissions, with analysis as to how these can be considered in the regulation impact assessment.

The Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) that is now being developed will draw on the work identified in the Options Paper, and will be the subject of its own public consultation process.

I understand this process has also been comprehensively communicated to you in writing and through meetings with the ABCB Office's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Neil Savery.

In relation to your request that a separate reference committee be established to advise the ABCB on its RIS process. It is important to note that there are already strict guidelines set by the Office of Best Practice Regulation for conducting regulatory impact assessments that the ABCB adheres to, in addition to adopting extensive consultation mechanisms to ensure community and industry are constructively engaged in the decision-making process.

I can also confirm that all submissions received through the Consultation RIS will be made public, unless specified otherwise by the authors.

Finally, the BMF has requested the ABCB provide a regular report on this exercise as a standing item at BMF meetings. I am therefore confident in the integrity of the ABCB, its engagement with the broad community of interest on this subject and its RIA processes.

Thank you for writing on this matter and I trust I have addressed your concerns.

Yours sincerely



Karen Andrews

4/17/2019

CC: BMF Ministers

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