

Ms Margaret Ward
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Margaret
Dear Ms Ward

Re: Proposal for Change (PFC) to the National Construction Code (NCC)

I refer to the recent submission by the Australian Network for Universal Housing Design (ANUHD) and Rights & Inclusion Australia (RIA) of a PFC to amend the NCC to introduce measures for accessible housing.

As you are aware the Building Codes Committee (BCC), which is a technical advisory committee to the Board of the ABCB, met on the 14 July to consider this and other matters.

The BCC was provided with a copy of the PFC and advised of the Board's previous decisions in regard to this subject that have been communicated to you and/or Mr Michael Fox, including that of its most recent meeting in June of this year.

Having regard to all of this information the BCC resolved in the first instance that it is not in a position to support the PFC.

In this respect the BCC acknowledged the Board's view as the decision making body under the ABCB's Inter-governmental Agreement, that this is a policy rather than a technical matter, which given it has involved a decision of COAG, will require resolution at that level to establish any change in the direction of governments towards regulatory intervention.

The BCC also noted during its discussion, that there is an existing Australian Standard for adaptable housing that is applied through mechanisms other than the NCC, and that this standard may not be entirely suitable. With the support of the Standards Australia representative at the meeting, the BCC further resolved that the ANUHD and RIA be encouraged to continue dialogue with Standards Australia and other stakeholders on the production of a suitable replacement for this document.

Given that the PFC was submitted jointly by the ANUHD and RIA, I am including Mr Fox in my response, and trust that this advice provides some assistance to you.

As always I am happy to talk to you if you require any further clarification.

Yours sincerely



Neil Savery
General Manager

22 July 2016

Copy to: Mr Michael Fox, Chair Rights and Inclusion Australia