



3 August 2015

Our Ref: 05-015-01-0006 CG

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

cc by email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Inquiry into the use of smoke alarms to prevent smoke and fire related deaths

The Association welcomes the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Reference Committees' *Inquiry into the use of smoke alarms to prevent smoke and fire related deaths* and supports efforts to prevent injury and loss of life through the use of smoke alarms.

In Western Australia, all new homes and residential properties that are subject to sale, transfer of ownership, rent or hire are required under the Building Regulations 2012 to have compliant mains powered smoke alarms installed. The Association contends that these arrangements which are triggered through the transaction of housing, whether for purchase or rental and managed by the real estate industry, is both an effective and efficient system for ensures compliance without unnecessarily burdening either consumers or governments with cumbersome compliance checks.

Whilst the Association strongly supports the use of smoke alarms to prevent injury and death, it does not believe that it is the role of Local Government to undertake any smoke alarm compliance checks. Recent changes to building legislation and the introduction of private certification for building approvals mean that Local Governments in Western Australia are not well placed, nor appropriately resourced to undertake smoke alarm compliance checks.

The Association trusts that the comments and recommendations outlined in the submission are considered by the Committee during the course of the Inquiry and kindly requests to be kept informed of the progress made by the Committee. Should you have any queries regarding the submission, please not hesitate to contact Christopher Green, Senior Planner, Planning and Community Development

Yours sincerely,

Allison Hailes
Executive Manager, Planning & Community Development

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