

Submission 103 - Australian Window Association

The Australian Window Association made submission 5 to the inquiry into non-conforming building products in the 44th Parliament.

This document is intended as a supplementary submission to the original submission 5.

All submissions received in the 44th Parliament can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Economics/Non-conforming_products/Submissions

Australian Window Association
Pymble Corporate Centre
Building 1, Level 1, Suite 1
20 Bridge Street Pymble NSW 2073



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Committee Secretary
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
E: economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee

RE: SECOND SUBMISSION - INQUIRY INTO NON CONFORMING BUILDING PRODUCTS

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the inquiry into the effects of non-conforming building products on the Australian building and construction industry to the Senate Economics References Committee. This second submission strongly supports the Senate Inquiry into Non-Conforming Building Product (NCBP) as the prevalence of building products not meeting relevant Australian standards and codes has increased significantly and in step with increased global sourcing and purchasing practices in recent years.

Since our 2015 submission to the previous inquiry, the prevalence of non-conforming products has continued to rate as the major concern for our industry. Consumer safety continues to be put at risk and our industry still lacks the support it needs to meet its obligation to provide buildings that are safe and durable. The cost of rectification or replacement is significant.

In reinforcing our first submission, the AWA continues to believe that the necessary action to be taken includes such things as:

- Effective policing of conformance to current regulated requirements,
- Strict and prompt penalties for non-compliance (knowingly procuring, installing and certifying non-conforming products),
- Responsibilities defined at point of sale and certification,
- Fully equitable treatment across the whole supply chain, applied equally to imported products and services as it is to domestic product and installation
- At a minimum, regulatory or government endorsement of existing third party accredited industry schemes.

The key fundamental though is for strict enforcement of all Australian regulations and standards and severe financial penalties to be imposed where it is proved that an organisation is either selling or procuring non-compliant product, or where they are importing it directly for use in Australia.

The AWA continues to work relentlessly, representing the industry in as many forums and on as many work groups and committees as they practically can, on this issue.

We look forward to the outcomes of the inquiry as quickly as possible and attach a copy of our first submission in 2015 for reference.

Yours sincerely

Tracey Gramlick
Executive Director & CEO