

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Inquiry into the Climate Risk Assessment

Department: Department of the Treasury
Topic: Is there a review of the Construction Code underway
Reference: Spoken 16 September 2025
Senator: **Larissa Waters**

Question:

I just want to follow up on the questions that I asked the previous panel in relation to the Construction Code. Is there a review of the Construction Code underway? Is Treasury involved in that?

Dr Heath: We would have to take that on notice. A different group is responsible for that.

CHAIR: Thank you. I'm asking because of the government decision to pause the Construction Code until 2029 despite all of the risk—the climate resilience elements—in this particular report. Have you looked at those particular parts of the report and what that means for buildings and construction?

Dr Heath: We have not.

Answer:

On 24 August 2025, the Minister for Housing announced she will work with states and territories to pause new residential regulation changes to the National Construction Code (NCC) until mid-2029, except for essential safety and quality changes. The pause will come into effect following consideration of NCC 2025. While the pause is underway the Government will work with states and territories and stakeholders to modernise and streamline the NCC. Treasury's Housing Group is supporting this work.

In June 2024 Building Ministers agreed to include climate resilience as an objective of the Australian Building Codes Board in the 2025-2029 Intergovernmental Agreement. The NCC already differentiates building code requirements based on different climate zones in Australia, which helps to account for varying weather patterns like wind and temperature within those zones. Energy efficiency provisions in the NCC have also contributed significantly to climate mitigation. The inclusion of additional resilience provisions in the NCC is a matter for Building Ministers.