Committee Secretary
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra   ACT   2600

15 November 2016

Inquiry into non-conforming building products - Re-opening submissions and additional terms of reference relating to asbestos

Dear Sir/Madam,

One of ACIF's four policy priorities for 2016, is the implementation of an effective regime to be established to minimise the use of non-conforming building products.

On this issue, ACIF supports the approach of the Construction Product Alliance (CPA). In August 2015, the CPA provided a paper to the Building Ministers' Forum setting out an eight point Action Plan containing key activities designed to support a holistic approach to the issues. The recommendations in the Action Plan were as follows:

1. Establish a taskforce comprised of key industry stakeholders and state and federal government agencies with a charter to develop a strategic plan which incorporates short, medium and long term responses to the issue of non-conforming products (NCP).

2. Request the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) to:

    - Undertake a review of the current evidence of suitability criteria in the National Construction Code (NCC); and

    - Develop and publish guidance material in the form of a handbook regarding the use of risk-based assessments to determine the appropriate evidence of suitability under the NCC.

3. Establish a national portal to increase public and industry awareness of available information on NCP.

4. Increase stakeholder awareness of third party certification schemes as a tool for achieving product compliance.

Members Airconditioning and Mechanical Contractors Association, Association of Consulting Architects, Australian Institute of Architects, Australian Institute of Building, Australian Institute of Building Surveyors, Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors, Consult Australia, Engineers Australia, Facilities Management Association of Australia, Fire Protection Association Australia, Housing Industry Association, Insulated Panel Council Australasia, Master Builders Australia, Master Plumbers Association of Australia, National Fire Industry Association, Property Council of Australia.

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5. Develop and operate a pilot to determine the feasibility of establishing a single building products register for compliant product based on industry and government certification schemes.

6. Evaluate the feasibility of building product legislation being enforced at point of sale.

7. State building authorities to review surveillance and audit activities and implement stronger penalty regimes to improve effectiveness in achieving compliance with the National Construction Code (NCC).

8. Assess the feasibility of establishing a confidential reporting system to facilitate the reporting of industry concerns around NCP.

Yours faithfully,

James Cameron

ACIF Executive Director