



Senator The Hon Chris Ketter
Australian Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

4 July 2017

Non-Conforming Building Products

Dear Senator,

The Australian Construction Industry Forum (ACIF) has been and is vitally concerned at the issue of non-conforming and non-compliant building products being used in Australian structures. ACIF deeply regrets the loss of life in the recent Grenfell Tower apartment building fire in London, with associated issues being added to the Australian Parliamentary inquiry, of which you are currently the Chair.

Briefly, ACIF is the meeting place for leaders of the construction industry in Australia, it facilitates and supports an active dialogue between the key players in residential and non-residential building, and engineering construction, other groups and government agencies. Our Members are the most significant associations and institutes in the industry, spanning the entire asset creation process from feasibility through design, cost planning, construction and building and management.

ACIF would be pleased to assist and advise the Inquiry particularly as the Grenfell Tower catastrophe has many similarities with the 2014 Lacrosse building fire in Docklands, Melbourne. There are many aspects to be considered ranging from the testing and approval of product, design, selection, certification, construction, and inspection of products as used and any reporting, enforcement and appropriate consequences of non-compliance within the regime.

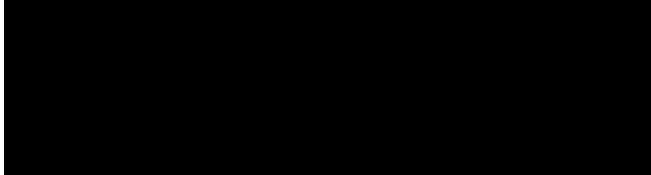
Also of great importance is the education of building and design practitioners in the use and interpretation of the Building Code of Australia (BCA), or National Construction Code (NCC), together with an effective process of advertising and/or informing industry of any Code Marking approval schemes for building products so that poor decisions at any level are not made that lead to poor outcomes.

It is generally acknowledged that the BCA or NCC is a fundamentally good document that may suffer from being administered by many jurisdictions; one must not lose sight of the two regimes contained therein: i) the prescriptive “deemed to satisfy” provisions and ii) the more latterly introduced performance based provisions which allow for innovation and flexible solutions in design and construction.

Where the leaders of the building and construction industry meet.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you further.

Yours sincerely,

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Norman Faifer FAIB, FAIQS, FIAMA, FRI(Adj)

Chair

James Cameron

Executive Director