



Senate Economics References Committee

24 October 2017

Senator the Hon Stephen Parry
President of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr President,

Pursuant to Senate standing order 38(7), I present to you an interim report of the Economics References Committee's inquiry into non-conforming building products.

On 23 June 2015, the Senate referred the matter of non-conforming building products to the Economics References Committee for inquiry and report by 12 October 2015. The committee was granted a number of extensions and the inquiry lapsed at the dissolution of the 44th Parliament. The committee tabled an interim report, *Safety—'not just a matter of good luck'* on 4 May 2016. On 11 October 2016, the Senate agreed to the committee's recommendation that this inquiry be re-adopted in the 45th Parliament.

On 13 October 2016, as part of its broader inquiry, the committee resolved to inquire into the illegal importation of products containing asbestos and adopted additional terms of reference.

In light of the tragic fire at the Grenfell Tower in London in June 2017, the committee agreed to prepare an additional interim report on the implications of the use of non-compliant external cladding materials in Australia as a priority. On 17 August 2017, the Senate agreed to extend the reporting dates for the interim report on asbestos and the final reporting date. The committee tabled its report, *Interim report: aluminium composite cladding* on 6 September 2017.

The committee's reporting dates have changed as follows:

- 31 October 2017: Interim report—*asbestos*; and
- 30 April 2018: Final inquiry report.

The committee requests an extension of time to report on the additional terms of reference on the illegal importation of products containing asbestos from 31 October 2017 until 14 November 2017 to allow it to consider the evidence received and to conclude its deliberations.

Yours sincerely

Senator Chris Ketter
Chair