



19 November 2020

The Hon Karen Andrews MP
 Minister for Industry, Science and Technology
 PO Box 6022
 CANBERRA ACT 2600

cc: State and Territory Building Ministers

by email: minister.andrews@industry.gov.au

Dear Minister

NO TIME TO DELAY BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC), supported by our members listed below, are committed to good practice policy improvements that will ensure confidence in Australia’s building and construction industry.

The building and construction sector contributes 13% GDP and supports 1.4 million jobs and will play a critical role in the economic recovery from the COVID-19 recession, supporting jobs and boosting the confidence needed for further investment in quality homes, offices and social infrastructure.

Now more than ever Australians are focused on the safety and quality of their built environment. It is important that Commonwealth, State and Territory governments recommit to working together and urgently implement the foundation, delivery, and post construction reforms recommended in the *Building Confidence* Report and the energy efficiency work as part of the National Construction Code.

Now is not the time to ‘go slow’ on these important reforms.

Australia has a strong building and construction sector, but the lack of enforcement, consistency and clarity of the regulatory framework means that the quality of activity in our sector has been compromised. Nationally consistent laws and approaches should be pursued to reduce complexity, duplicated effort and to assist businesses operating across jurisdictions.

There is an opportunity, during this time of economic recovery, to focus efforts on reforms that will deliver better productivity and quality outcomes. We urge Building Ministers at their upcoming meeting to commit to releasing the Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Building Confidence reforms and to maintain your joint efforts on implementing these reforms and the energy efficiency work as part of the National Construction Code in 2022, a commitment from all Australian Governments under the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings.

We would appreciate the chance to meet with you to discuss these proposals in further detail. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Suzanne Toumbourou, Executive Director of Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (suzanne@asbec.asn.au | 0423 407 467) to arrange a meeting.

Yours Sincerely



Professor Ken Maher AO
ASBEC President

On behalf of

Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council

Australian Building Sustainability Association

Australian Glass & Window Association

Australian Institute of Architects

Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air conditioning and Heating

Building Designers Association of Australia

Council of Capital City Lord Mayors

Energy Efficiency Council

Engineers Australia

Facility Management Association of Australia

Good Environmental Choice Australia

Green Building Council of Australia

Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia

Insulation Australasia

Insulation Council of Australia and New Zealand

Planning Institute of Australia

Property Council of Australia

Sustainable Building Research Centre (University of Wollongong)

Vinyl Council of Australia and uPVC Windows Alliance

Water Services Association of Australia