

Legislative Assembly
Community Development and Justice Standing Committee
 Department of Fire and Emergency Services
 Questions from Hearing Wednesday, 1 November 2017

Question

“Possible amendments to the BCA [Building Code of Australia] are being managed at a national level with input from states, expert groups and community consultation. The process is being treated as urgent.”

Please tell the Committee:

1. What is the process for community consultation in Western Australia?
2. What is the timeline for the Building Code of Australia review?

Process for community consultation in Western Australia (WA)

The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) seeks input from a range of stakeholders including building and plumbing professionals, research communities, industry peak bodies, local governments, special interest groups and the community. The ABCB also encourages stakeholder involvement in project-specific committees and working groups.

The process for community consultation is coordinated at a national level by ABCB. The feedback received through consultation assists in fully informing strategic, policy, technical, administrative and societal issues.

Proposals for change allow anyone to put forward changes to the National Construction Code (NCC). Consultation on proposed NCC changes occurs through the public comment draft which seeks further community input.

A proposal for change has been submitted by Australasian Fire & Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC), Built Environment Technical Group (BETG) to the ABCB for consideration and inclusion in the NCC 2019 public comment draft. The submission related to Building Code of Australia (BCA) requirements that are not easily applied across all jurisdictions, particularly State Pressure Variations (2.2.3), Relay Pump (2.2.9) External Fire Hydrants (3.5.1), Additional Fire Hydrants (3.6.3) and Fire Brigade Booster Assembly Location (7.3.1). The BCA is Volume One and Volume Two of the NCC.

The NCC 2019 public comment draft becomes available on the ABCB website in early 2018. Registered NCC users will be automatically notified when the draft is available.

Timeline

The ABCB review proposals for revisions to the NCC on a three-year cycle.

The NCC 2019 public comment draft will be available in early 2018.