

# Legislative Council



MEDIA RELEASE

---

4 December 2014

## **Inquiry into access to Australian Standards adopted in delegated legislation – Invitation to make a submission**

The Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation has commenced an inquiry into access to Australian Standards adopted in delegated legislation.

The Committee will inquire into access to Australian Standards adopted in delegated legislation in Western Australia including:

1. the level of free public access to adopted Australian Standards in metropolitan and regional Western Australia;
2. whether amendments to legislation are required to improve public access to adopted Australian Standards;
3. other measures to improve public access to adopted Australian Standards;
4. measures to improve access to adopted Australian Standards provided to the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation; and
5. any other related matters that arise during the course of the inquiry.

The inquiry arose out of the Committee's observation that delegated legislation (including government regulations, rules and local government local laws) frequently adopt Australian Standards but Australian Standards are not accessible at no charge to the public and the Parliament in the same way that primary legislation (Acts) and delegated legislation are publicly available.

For example, a recent regional local government health local law adopted five Australian Standards and the Building Code of Australia but these documents are not readily available to the public unless purchased at significant cost. To give another example, the *Consumer Protection Notice No. 3 of 2014* imposed the *Safety Standard: Child restraint systems for use in motor vehicles* as adopted law, which created new standards referencing the 2013, 2010 and 2004 versions of Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 1754. However, the relevant Government department neither possessed a

copy of these standards nor are they readily available to the public, unless purchased at significant cost.

Peter Abetz MLA, Chairman of the Committee said '*The Committee invites written submissions addressing the inquiry's terms of reference from interested persons*'. Submissions are requested by Friday, 30 January 2015.

Written information about the form and content of submissions can be obtained from the Committee Office or viewed on the Committee's website at [www.parliament.wa.gov.au/del](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/del). Submissions should be addressed to David Driscoll, Parliamentary Officer (Committees), Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation, Legislative Council, Parliament House, GPO Box A11 Perth WA 6837, fax: 9222 7508 or email [delleg@parliament.wa.gov.au](mailto:delleg@parliament.wa.gov.au).

Media inquiries can be addressed to Peter Abetz MLA on 0409 076 155.

Other inquiries should be addressed to David Driscoll, Parliamentary Officer (Committees), on 9222 7404.

**Peter Abetz MLA**  
**Chairman**