



**Australian
Institute of
Architects**



Australian Institute of
Landscape Architects



**ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA**

ABN 72 000 023 012
The Royal Australian Institute of Architects
trading as Australian Institute of Architects

WA Chapter
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17 August 2020

Hon Sue Ellery
Minister for Education and Training
Level 13, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister,

REVIEW OF THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING FUND

The Australian Institute of Architects (Institute) is the peak body for the architectural profession in Australia. It is an independent, national member organisation representing over 12,500 members across Australia and overseas. More than 1,100 of these are based in Western Australia and are supported by the WA Chapter.

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) champions quality design for public open spaces, stronger communities and greater environmental stewardship. AILA represents over 3,500 (and growing) members throughout Australia and overseas. As a not-for-profit professional association, our role is to serve the mutual interests of our members and the wider profession.

Engineers Australia is the largest and most diverse body of engineers in Australia. As Australia's principal engineering association they serve and represent around 100,000 professionals at every level, across all fields of practice. They are committed to advancing engineering and the professional development of our members.

Engineers Australia is the trusted authority of a profession that shapes the lives of every Australian. With countless organisations, institutions and government agencies relying on their expertise to create, accredit and assess engineering programs and practitioners, their proven dedication to engineers and the Australian industry is unparalleled.

The Institute, AILA and Engineers Australia strongly supports enhancing the competency and capability of architects, engineers, builders, trades persons and others in the building workforce through appropriate training and professional development activities.



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Support for the BCITF Levy

We strongly support the retention of the training levy and the principle aimed at creating more efficient and effective arrangements for enhancing training initiatives in the building and construction industry in Western Australia.

Building Design Professionals to receive Training Funds

However, we strongly believe that funds collected by the BCITF should be available to support worthwhile training initiatives aimed at improving the skills and knowledge of building design professionals including architects, engineers, quantity surveyors and landscape architects.

Prior to 1997, funds collected by the BCITF were made available to these professions for training purposes. However, since that date, inadvertent amendments to the BCITF legislation in 1997/98 have prevented the building design professions from accessing the funds collected to support training initiatives.

These amendments had the unintended effect of effectively excluding architects and other design professionals from being defined as part of the building construction industry, and therefore from being able to access funds from the BCITF.

At present there is no Government support for training within the architectural profession or the other building design professions. To encourage adequate levels of training within these professions, as supported by the Recommendations emerging from the Building Ministers Forum (BMF) and Shergold Weir Report, this is more pertinent to ensure high skill within the industry, we reiterate that we strongly believe building design professionals be supported by training funds.

Need to Change Legislation

Amendments will be required to the BCITF legislation to enable architects, landscape architects, engineers and other building design professionals to received financial support from this training fund. We would welcome your assurance that this anomaly will be addressed in the redrafting of the legislation.



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The Building and Construction Industry Training Fund and Levy Collection Act (WA) 1990 currently defines the building and construction industry as follows:

construction industry means the industry –

(a) of carrying out on a site the construction, erection, installation, reconstruction, re-erection, renovation, alteration, demolition or maintenance of or repairs to any of the following –

(i) buildings; and

(iia) swimming pools and spa pools; and

(ii) roads, railways, airfields or other works for the passage of persons, animals or vehicles; and

(iii) breakwaters, docks, jetties, piers, wharves or works for the improvement or alteration of any harbour, river or watercourse for the purposes of navigation; and

(iv) works for the storage or supply of water or for the irrigation of land; and

(v) works for the conveyance, treatment or disposal of sewage or of the effluent from any premises; and

(vi) works for the extraction, refining, processing or treatment of materials or for the production or extraction of products and by-products from materials; and

(vii) bridges, viaducts, aqueducts or tunnels; and

(viii) chimney stacks, cooling towers, drilling rigs, gas-holders or silos; and

(ix) pipelines; and

(x) navigational lights, beacons or markers; and

(xi) works for the drainage of land; and

(xii) works for the storage of liquids (other than water) or gases; and

(xiii) works for the generation, supply or transmission of electric power; and

(xiv) works for the transmission of wireless or telegraphic communications; and

(xv) pile driving works; and

(xvi) structures, fixtures or works for use on or for the use of any buildings or works of a kind referred to in subparagraphs (i) to (xv); and

(xvii) works for the preparation of sites for any buildings or works of a kind referred to in subparagraphs (i) to (xvi); and

(xviii) fences, other than fences on farms;



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(b) of carrying out of works on a site of the construction, erection, installation, reconstruction, re-erection, renovation, alteration or demolition of any buildings or works of a kind referred to in paragraph (a) for the fabrication, erection or installation of plant, plant facilities or equipment for those buildings or works;

(c) of carrying out of work performed by employees engaged in the work referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) and that is normally carried out on site but which is not necessarily carried out on site,

but does not include –

(d) the carrying out of any work on ships; or

(e) the maintenance of or repairs or minor alterations to lifts or escalators; or

(f) the carrying out of maintenance or repairs of a routine or minor nature by employees for an employer, or another person under an arrangement with a labour hire agency, who is not substantially engaged in the industry described in this interpretation;

Broadening the definition of the industry, to include the design professionals will mirror the symbiotic and co-dependant relationship of the construction and design industry, strengthen national initiatives stemming from the BMF and pandemic stimulus definition of the essential service of construction industry.

The Institute, AILA and Engineers Australia would welcome your timely intervention to ensure that architects, landscape architects and engineers are no longer excluded from enhancing and improving their skills and have access to the funds levied on every project on which they are involved.

Given the importance of this issue to your Ministerial portfolio, we would appreciate meeting with you to discuss how this can best be achieved.

Please do not hesitate to contact us directly or indirectly for any assistance we can offer.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Hobbs FRAIA

STATE PRESIDENT WA - AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



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GENERAL MANAGER WA - ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA

CC: Executive Officer, Eamon Moore
Construction Training Fund WA