



**Australian
Institute of
Architects**

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

WA Chapter
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05 August 2022

Allan Jones
Chief Executive Officer
Financial, Administrative & Professional Services Training Council Incorporated
U3, 1 Sangiorgio Court
Osborne Park WA 6017

Dear Allan,

RE: DIPLOMA OF BUSHFIRE PROTECTION ASSESSMENT – LETTER OF SUPPORT

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 1,200 of these are based in Western Australia and are supported by the WA Chapter.

The Institute supports the development of the new *Diploma of Bushfire Protection Assessment* (Diploma) in Western Australia.

Our support is provided for the following reasons:

- The Diploma aligns with Recommendation 5 of our submission in response to the *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements*ⁱ, which states: “Built environment professionals must be supported to design more sustainable buildings”.
- Providing training locally will result in a greater pool of qualified professionals in WA.
- With the impacts of climate change, bushfires and bushfire risk are expected to become more prevalent. The availability of appropriately skilled bushfire professionals will directly benefit the safety of the wider community.
- The development of the Diploma proactively pre-empts the skill demand for bushfire professionals in WA.

In alignment with the *Building Confidence Report*ⁱⁱ recommendations, and public safety issue, we recommend further consumer protection measures to be introduced for professionals attaining the Diploma. These include:

- The requirement to register with the Department of Mining Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) as ‘fire safety’ professionals under the Building Services (Registration) Act;
- Hold mandatory Professional Indemnity Insurance.



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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this new program. Please don't hesitate to contact us should you have any questions in relation to our feedback.

Yours sincerely,

Sandy Anghie RAIA

STATE PRESIDENT WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ⁱ Refer submission to the Australian Government dated 4 May 2020:

<https://www.architecture.com.au/wp-content/uploads/20200504-Australian-Institute-of-Architects-Royal-Commission.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Shergold, P. and Weir, B. Building Confidence, February 2018:

https://www.industry.gov.au/sites/default/files/July%202018/document/pdf/building_ministers_forum_expert_assessment_-_building_confidence.pdf