



23 August 2022

Hon Mick de Brenni MP  
Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen  
Minister for Public Works and Procurement  
GPO Box 2457  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister

**RE: NATIONAL BUILDING MINISTERS' MEETING ON THE CONSTRUCTION CODE 2022**

Thank you for your reply to Dr Lavery, the recent acting Queensland Chapter President of the Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute), by way of your letter dated 17 August 2022.

As the newly elected Queensland Chapter President of the Institute, I would like to continue the conversation and collaboration commenced by Dr Lavery (Michael), as our more than 2,000 Queensland members value the opportunity to participate in critical moments in the advancement of our industry, such as the National Building Ministers' Meeting on August 26, when state, territory and federal ministers will gather to discuss proposed amendments to the National Construction Code.

As eloquently articulated in Michael's recent letter, I wanted to reach out to you in advance of the Ministerial Construction Council meeting tomorrow to re-affirm the Institute's commitment to a net zero carbon building and construction industry by 2030 and offer the Institute's support for the points below:

- The introduction of strengthened, nationally consistent energy efficiency, and accessibility, standards for new homes in the upcoming 2022 edition of the National Construction Code (NCC);
- Raising the minimum thermal performance standard for building fabric from 6 to 7 NatHERS stars;
- Use the move to 7-star to encourage and inspire the innovative solutions that our members and the wider Queensland building industry will bring to the table, which we hope will be the envy of our nation as well as the international stage;
- Introducing a 'whole-of-home' budget approach to managing the energy use of fixed appliances for heating and cooling, hot water, lighting, and pool and spa pumps.



- Adopting a reasonable transition period (12 months) for the implementation of these changes, which can be managed by architects and would be consistent with previous NCC changes;
- Mandate and resource the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) to deliver a forward workplan to address condensation risks;
- Act now to adopt the highest standards available to ensure the delivery of homes that are cheaper to run, healthier to live in, support resilience to rising temperatures, and that contribute to emissions reductions, thereby offsetting global temperature rises over the implementation period that serve to diminish the benefits of the increased standards.
- Protect the investment in affordable, social, and public housing by ensuring that it is built to meet Queenslanders' needs in the future;
- Protect the investment in significant residential infrastructure that is being planned now for the 2032 Olympic Game, which is intended to serve Queenslanders for generations to come.
- Balance concerns relating to the unprecedented cost pressures in the housing industry today with the knowledge that savings in running and /or replacement costs (particularly regarding public housing) will serve as the protection of Queensland's future;
- Make decisions that are consistent with the goals of the Queensland Plan "30-year vision" to design infrastructure with longevity in mind, support the least advantaged, create the best place to live in Australia and invest in and adopt sustainable and renewable solutions; and,

In my role as the Queensland Chapter President, I would like to offer the Institute's proactive advocacy with Building Ministers and the ABCB Board to accelerate necessary measures in response to climate change.

Our Queensland State Manager, Dr Anna Svendsdotter will be in attendance tomorrow, so please reach out to her for any further assistance the Institute may be able to provide.

Yours sincerely,

Amy Degenhart LFRAIA

QUEENSLAND CHAPTER PRESIDENT

CC: Ainslie Barron, Executive Director, Building Policy, Department of Energy and Public Works