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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Government Must Not Compromise Building Safety for Political Expediency

Critical fire safety and waterproofing improvements at risk as NCC pause considered

The Australian Institute of Architects has condemned reports that the federal government is considering pausing vital National Construction Code (NCC) updates, warning that such action would compromise public safety.

Adam Haddow, National President of the Australian Institute of Architects, said the suggestion that halting NCC improvements would boost productivity was fundamentally flawed.

"Any inference that pausing the NCC will cut red tape and allow more buildings to be built more quickly is a furphy," Mr Haddow said. "We should never compromise safety and quality for speed and volume."

Critical Safety Improvements at Risk

The upcoming NCC changes address essential improvements in waterproofing and fire safety – upgrades that directly protect lives and property. With Australia experiencing increased changing weather events including devastating storms and bushfires, these updates are more urgent than ever.

"The government has a fundamental duty of care to ensure the safety of our buildings," Mr Haddow said. "The NCC aims to improve the resilience of our buildings to extreme weather events and protect citizens."

The National Construction Code sets safety standards for both commercial and residential buildings across Australia. Regular three-year review cycles ensure continuous improvement in building safety and quality.

Climate Resilience Cannot Wait

As climate change intensifies, Australia's buildings must be equipped to withstand changing weather events. The proposed NCC updates will make buildings more resilient, efficient, safe and comfortable.

"In an era of increasing weather challenges, weakening our building standards is immoral," Mr Haddow concluded.

"True productivity comes from building it right the first time – safely and to last."

- ENDS -

National President of the Australian Institute of Architects, Adam Haddow, is available for interview.

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