



**ABCB**

# Delivery of the Building Confidence Report National Framework

Public Report

May 2021

# Delivery of the Building Confidence National Framework

---

This report details progress in delivery of the [Building Confidence National Framework](#) by the Building Confidence Report (BCR) Implementation Team (the Team). The Team previously publicly reported on its work in December 2020.

## Background

The [BCR](#) was released in April 2018 and made 24 recommendations to Building Ministers to improve compliance and enforcement in the building and construction industry.

Building Ministers established the Team in July 2019 within the Office of the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB). The Team was tasked with developing and reporting on a National Framework for the consistent implementation of the BCR recommendations, as well as the design, construction and certification of complex buildings.

The Building Confidence National Framework guides the Team's work, which is in addition to work underway in individual states and territories. Version 2 of the Building Confidence National Framework was released in February 2021. Changes were made to incorporate Building Ministers' decisions from their November 2020 meeting on priorities and outputs, summarised in the [Public Report \(December 2020\)](#).

Implementation of the majority of the national responses, developed by the Team, remains the responsibility of states and territories.

## Consultation

Consultation is critical to the Team's work. It works closely with governments and industry through targeted consultations, recommendation-specific working groups, and forums. The Team consults and liaises with the Building Ministers' Meeting and senior building officials. Direction and advice is provided by the ABCB and Building Ministers.

The Team also seeks advice from its Experts Panel and Industry Leaders Consultative Group (ILCG).

The Experts Panel is a diverse group of eminent professionals who have been appointed in their personal capacity to provide the Team with confidential advice on how to deliver the BCR recommendations.

The ILCG, which also responds to Building Ministers' desires for industry to make a contribution to addressing problems in the sector, comprises a cross-section of industry associations and representatives who have volunteered to provide technical advice and act as a high-level forum for consultation on delivery of the National Framework.

### Public consultations

In addition to targeted consultations, the Team consults publicly through the ABCB's Consultation Hub. As at May 2021, the open public consultations include:

- [Recommendation 21: discussion paper on a draft Building Product Assurance Framework](#) (open 29 March 2021 to 6 June 2021).

Completed public consultations and surveys include:

- [Recommendation 20: discussion paper on a building manual](#) (open 9 March 2021 to 17 May 2021)
- [Recommendation 9 and 11: discussion paper on the integrity of private building surveyors and their role in enforcement](#) (open 2 March 2021 to 27 April 2021)
- [Recommendations 13 – 16: discussion paper on the design documentation process](#) (open 16 November 2020 to 28 February 2021)
- [Recommendation 17: discussion paper on the draft model process for independent third party review](#) (open 7 December 2020 to 28 February 2021)
- [Recommendation 18: discussion paper on the draft model process for mandatory inspections](#) (open 7 December 2020 to 28 February 2021)
- [Recommendation 7: draft Auditing and Compliance Publication Framework](#) (open 9 November 2020 to 31 January 2021)
- [The draft definition for building complexity](#) (open 22 May to 1 November 2020).
- [Recommendations 1 and 2: the draft National Registration Framework for Building Practitioners](#) (open from 26 June to 23 August 2020)
- [Recommendation 7: Reporting on the auditing of commercial buildings](#) (survey open from 30 June to 14 July 2020), and

- [Recommendation 10: discussion paper with a draft Model Code of Conduct for Building Surveyors](#) (open from 13 March to 24 April 2020).

## Current status

The Team's work aims to ensure jurisdictions are afforded flexibility when implementing recommendations, with work focused on delivering benchmarked minimum model guidance for states and territories to consider drawing upon in their respective regulatory contexts.

The current status of all recommendations is at Table 1 below. A visual representation of links between each recommendation is at Figure 1.

**Table 1 Current status of all BCR recommendations**

Status	Progress
Recommendations 1 & 2 – National Registration Framework (NRF)	In April 2021, Building Ministers considered the draft NRF. Ministers noted work to date in developing a model National Registration Framework, and agreed it should precede Automatic Mutual Recognition <sup>1</sup> . Ministers will convene mid 2021 to consider the final NRF proposal.
Recommendation 3 – Guiding principles for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) on the National Construction Code (NCC)	A discussion paper is being developed with input from government and an industry working group to facilitate input into the development of a set of guiding principles. The principles will assist in achieving nationally consistent mandatory requirements and implementation of CPD on the NCC into new and existing CPD schemes. This complements work by the broader Office of the ABCB to provide online CPD on the NCC.
Recommendation 4 – Career paths for building surveyors	In response to stakeholder input, and in accordance with a decision of the Board, a discussion paper and draft guide on evidence of experience for building surveying registration is being developed with input of industry and government. The draft guide will include information on career pathways for building surveyors.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pmc.gov.au/domestic-policy/deregulation-taskforce/occupational-mobility>

Status	Progress
Recommendation 5 – Improving collaboration between regulators <b>COMPLETE</b>	The model Terms of Reference for an Intra-jurisdictional Building Regulators Cooperative Committee, agreed by Building Ministers in November 2020, has been provided to state and territory building regulators for their consideration and implementation, where appropriate.
Recommendation 6 – Effective regulatory powers <b>COMPLETE</b>	A list of minimum powers necessary to undertake effective regulatory compliance activities was agreed by Building Ministers in November 2020 and provided to jurisdictions for consideration and implementation, where appropriate.
Recommendation 7 – Reporting on auditing of the construction of commercial buildings	Public consultation on a draft Auditing and Compliance Publication Framework closed on 31 January 2021. The Team has analysed responses and refined the draft Framework in response. The final Framework will be presented to the ABCB Board in June 2021. States and territories are responsible for developing and making public their auditing strategies.
Recommendation 8 – Fire authorities in the building approval process	The Team continues to consult with stakeholders to develop high-level guidance, noting that progress on this recommendation is linked to BCR recommendations 1 and 2.
Recommendation 9 and 11 – Integrity of private building surveyors, and Role of building surveyors in enforcement	Public consultation on a discussion paper was completed on 27 April 2021. The Team is analysing comments to finalise a response to Building Ministers by mid 2021.
Recommendation 10 – Code of conduct for building surveyors <b>COMPLETE</b>	The finalised model Code of Conduct was noted by Building Ministers in November 2020. It has been published on the ABCB website and provided to jurisdictions for consideration and implementation, where appropriate.
Recommendations 12 and 20 – Data collection and sharing and building manual	A discussion paper on building manuals was released in March 2021 and is open until 17 May 2021. The Team continues to work with a steering group to develop responses to recommendations 12 and 20.
Recommendation 13-16 – Design and documentation	Public consultation on a draft design approval process closed on 28 February 2021. The Team is analysing comments to finalise a response by mid 2021.
Recommendation 17 – Independent third party review	Public consultation on a draft model process for independent third party review closed on 28 February 2021. The Team is analysing comments to finalise a response by mid 2021.

Status	Progress
Recommendation 18 – Mandatory inspections	Public consultation on a draft model process for mandatory inspections closed on 28 February 2021. The Team is analysing comments to finalise a response by mid 2021.
Recommendation 19 – Inspection and certification of fire safety system installations	The Team is developing a discussion paper to be released in July 2021. The Team continues to consult with stakeholders, noting that progress on this recommendation is linked to recommendations 1, 2 and 13 to 18.
Recommendation 21 – Building product safety	A discussion paper on a draft Building Product Assurance Framework was released in March 2021 and is open until 06 June 2021.
Recommendation 22 – Dictionary of terminology	The Team is working with Standards Australia and jurisdictions to further develop the dictionary, which is available at <a href="http://www.constructiondictionary.com.au">www.constructiondictionary.com.au</a> . A preferred terms publication is also being developed.
Complex Buildings	Building Ministers agreed in November 2020 that the revised definition be included in the NCC 2022 Public comment draft scheduled for release in May 2021.

## Latest actions

Building Ministers met on 30 April 2021 to discuss a range of building regulatory matters. At this meeting, Ministers noted progress on the development of the National Registration Framework and agreed it should precede introduction of Automatic Mutual Recognition, across the states and territories.

It is anticipated that Ministers will convene mid-year to consider and decide on the remaining priority deliverables under the Building Confidence National Framework.

## Further information

Further information on the Team and its work is available on the ABCB website. The Team can be contacted at [bcimplementationteam@abcb.gov.au](mailto:bcimplementationteam@abcb.gov.au).

Figure 1 Links between BCR recommendations

