

## Terms of Reference

### Building Industry Representative Group (BIRG)

#### Introduction

On 28 April 2009 the Minister for Lands and Planning, the Hon Delia Lawrie, tabled a report in the Legislative Assembly entitled *Review of the Northern Territory's Building Certification System* prepared by a team from Queensland

The report reaches to almost every aspect of the administration of the building regulatory regime. However, due to the limitation of time and resources, it proffers the suggestions with little supporting justification on the basis that they will be tested locally before any implementation action is proposed.

The improvement ideas in the Queensland Report have been incorporated into a discussion paper entitled **Building Regulation in the Northern Territory** for consultation with the building industry and the community. Relevant projects that were already in train within Building Advisory Services have been added with varying degrees of comment and in some cases preferred positions.

These projects are:

- Building Practitioners Board proposals on registration;
- a proposal from NT Build to amend the *Building Act*;
- a new category of building Inspector;
- Home Warranty Insurance;
- consumer dispute resolution process;
- substantial compliance certificates;
- enforcement; and
- miscellaneous amendments to the *Building Act*.

Two further projects that were in train are subject to suggestions in the Queensland Report. They are temporary structures and continuing professional development (CPD).

At the same time as tabling the Queensland Report, the Minister announced a package of initiatives related to building certification.

The package included:

- a 24 month moratorium for properties in all declared building control areas to allow owners of existing buildings with incomplete certification or that are unauthorised to obtain compliance;
- a subsidy for building certifiers to travel to remote building areas;
- a taskforce to oversee compliance of existing Government owned and leased buildings; and
- a cadet program to grow the capacity of the building certification industry.

**Chairperson**            Mr John Brears

## **Members**

Australian Institute of Architects	Ross Connolly
Australian Institute of Building Surveyors	Penny Whinney-Houghton
Building Designers Association	Riarna MacCarthy
Engineers Australia	Peter Russell
Housing Industry Association	Glyn Williams
Master Builders Association NT	Graham Kemp
Building Advisory Committee	Steven Ehrlich
Building Practitioners Board	Peter Naylor
Building Certifier	Grant O'Callaghan
Building Certifier	Duncan Cooke

Participation of members is on a voluntary basis.

## **Objectives**

BIRG is to:

- discuss with industry the matters raised in the Discussion Paper;
- encourage responses and submissions from industry;
- evaluate the Discussion Paper, responses and submissions; and
- make findings.

## **Consultation**

Given the breadth of the matters raised in the Discussion Paper, it is proposed that BIRG consult by inviting submissions in writing, by telephone conference or in person. It is also proposed that members of BIRG offer to attend meetings arranged by industry peak bodies for their members or executives. Consultation is to take place during October and November 2009. Submissions are to be received by 20 November 2009.

## **Proposed Meetings**

The first meeting will be held within 2 weeks of the release of the Discussion Paper. Members will be required to consult with their nominating bodies during the consultation period. Meetings will be as required in October and November to consider submissions, formulate recommendations and approve the BIRG report. In addition, business will be done out of session through emails.

## **Report**

BIRG is to make a report to the Minister for Planning and Lands, the Hon Delia Lawrie in January 2010.

## **Administration**

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure will provide administrative support and cover operational expenses. The Department will promote the Discussion Paper through advertising, posting on the Moratorium web page, emails and mail.