

15 December 2011



**Australian Institute of Architects**

Ms Wendy Craik  
Presiding Commissioner  
Barriers to Effective Climate Change Adaptation Inquiry  
Productivity Commission  
LB2 Collins Street East  
Melbourne Vic 8003

Dear Commissioner,

***Barriers to Effective Climate Change Adaptation – Issues Paper***

I make this submission in my role as Chair of the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) Climate Change Task Group.

ASBEC is the peak body of key organisations that are committed to a sustainable built environment in Australia. ASBEC comprises 38 members consisting of industry and professional organisations, academic institutions, non-government organisations and government observers who are involved in the planning, design, delivery and operation of our built environment and are concerned with the economic, social and environmental performance of the sector.

Over the last few years, the ASBEC Climate Change Task Group (CCTG) has actively contributed to the Australian debate on reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, specifically through advocating the significant potential abatement available in the building sector through adopting energy efficiency measures. To inform its position, the CCTG commissioned research released in 2008 and updated in 2010, the Second Plank Report: Building: a Low Carbon Economy through Energy Efficiency Buildings and the Second Plank Update Report. These landmark reports include complementary measures which can achieve additional abatement to that which will occur in response to a carbon price.

Earlier this year, the Climate Change Task Group turned its attention to climate change adaptation and the steps necessary to facilitate a built environment that is more resilient to changes in the environment including; rising sea levels, higher temperatures, more intense bushfires, higher wind speeds and more frequent storms and cyclones.

The task group has identified a number of challenges and opportunities associated with climate change adaptation in the built environment. To address these issues in a co-ordinated, effective manner, the task group has commissioned the development of a policy framework to help guide industry to make informed decisions and engage with government about the relevant measures that can be taken to enable the built environment to be more resilient to changes in climate.

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It is expected that the policy framework will be completed and provided to the Productivity Commission's inquiry by March 2012 in accordance with the Task Group's reporting objectives and timeframe.

I welcome an ongoing dialogue with the Productivity Commission as the ASBEC Climate Change Task Group work progresses.

Yours sincerely,

David Parken, LFRAIA  
Chief Executive Officer and  
Chair of the ASBEC Climate Change Task Group