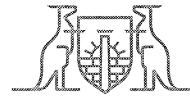


4 July 2012



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 – Draft Report

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 37 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.

I wrote to the Commission last month advising that the ASBEC Climate Change Task Group was developing a policy framework to identify the relevant measures that can be taken to enable the built environment to be more resilient to changes in climate. It is intended that the framework will form the basis for industry engagement with government and guide future action.

Further to my letter, I am pleased to advise that the Task Group's Built Environment Adaptation Framework was endorsed by the ASBEC Council meeting held at the end of June. I enclose a copy of the Framework for your consideration.

The Framework lists a number of actions under ten headings which we've identified as the strongest areas of need, commencing with the need for a formal mechanism to facilitate collaboration between industry and all levels of government to address these issues. The Task Group has recommended the creation of a National Built Environment Adaptation Council to facilitate this collaboration and work to implement the Framework.

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I also attach the Task Group's accompanying report to the Framework, 'Preparing for Change' which provides the rationale for the Framework.

I look forward to the opportunity to attend the Melbourne hearing you are conducting later this month as part of this inquiry.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any queries in relation to this submission and accompanying Framework and Report.

Yours sincerely,

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