

**Text of email letter to the Convenor of Australian Network for Universal Housing Design from Mr Neil Savery of the Australian Building Codes Board.**

As per our discussion and in response to the email request below I can advise as follows:

- At its meeting on the 30 June 2017, the Building Ministers' Forum (BMF) endorsed the ABCB's Business Plan for 2017-18, which includes the item – Accessible Housing. It is important to note, however, that the official commencement of this project is still subject to COAG agreement, which was an outcome agreed at a previous BMF meeting. It is our understanding that the process of obtaining COAG's agreement has been commenced by the BMF Secretariat.

The BMF also noted that this will be a substantial undertaking, involving analysis, research, consultation, development of provisions and testing of options through a Regulatory Impact Analysis. I also wish to stress from the outset that the ABCB operates in accordance with its objectives of COAG Best Practice Regulatory Principles, which include minimum regulation where there is no demonstrated alternative and proportional regulation based on verifiable evidence. Our regulatory impact processes are also subject to assessment by the Office of Best Practice Regulation.

- Given the above, once we have confirmation of COAG's agreement, official work will commence towards the end of this calendar year with the development of a Project Management Brief and the likely engagement of consultants with appropriate expertise in the subject. We would anticipate that there is at least 12 months of work in research and analysis, before developing options for consideration as part of a regulatory impact process. This will likely result in the development of a Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) followed by a Final (RIS) sometime in 2019.

As previously advised there is no prospect of this work being completed in accordance with our required processes and having the rigour expected of a COAG regulatory exercise, for NCC 2019. It is our expectation that the work will have been completed in a timeframe that if there were changes to the NCC agreed to, these would not be available for NCC 2019. Having said this, if there are changes proposed for NCC 2022, it is our experience that having a window in which industry can prepare for and transition also helps with effective implementation.

- In terms of ANUHD and RI Australia contributing to the work, your organisations, along with many others (I suspect both in favour of and not supportive of such measures being regulated) will be provided with the opportunity to have input into the gathering of evidence and commenting on proposed changes. This will then be followed by the more formal process of commenting on the Consultation RIS and if amendments are supported, the public comment draft of NCC 2022. These opportunities will become more evident once the Project Management Brief has been prepared and we are able to document our timeline for undertaking the project.

In the interim, as I am sure is likely to be the case already, your organisations can continue to gather evidence that you feel supports your case for regulatory intervention, what

options you may view as being feasible and worthy of consideration having regard to minimum and proportional, as well as any evidence of costs that you have collected over time that we could feed into economic modelling. We are obviously familiar with your previous Proposal for Change, which makes reference to some of this material, but this will be an opportunity for you to put it forward more formally once we officially seek input.