

### REFORM OF BUILDING REGULATION

The Productivity Commission has released a report on the future of the Building Code of Australia (BCA). The key points of that report are set out below.

#### KEY POINTS

The Commission found that the future work agenda for building regulation reform should include:

- further reducing variations across jurisdictions
- better articulating the performance-based requirements
- examining ways to enhance administration, compliance and enforcement systems
- examining the BCA's approach to property protection from fire, in dialogue with interested parties, in order to resolve differences
- examining ways to reduce the erosion of a national approach to building regulation caused by actions of Local Governments through their planning powers
- applying rigorous analysis to incorporating environmental requirements in the BCA.

The Australian Government, as well as the State and Territory Governments, should continue to be actively involved in building regulation reform (including funding).

The Commission considers that a new Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) should be negotiated by the nine governments to take forward the future building regulation reform agenda. The IGA should

- clarify the Australian Building Codes Board's mission statement and objectives of building regulation reform
- strengthen the commitment to national consistency
- affirm the importance of a whole-of-government approach to building regulation initiatives
- outline the future work agenda, drawing on recommendations contained in this study
- emphasise the importance of the Australian Building Codes Board giving priority to its core business
- strengthen the use of regulatory impact analysis
- agree to shared and increased funding and removal of some charges for the BCA.

#### MORE INFORMATION

Readers who would like to know more can find the full report at: <http://www.pc.gov.au/study/building/finalreport/index.html>