

15 April 2021

Committee Secretary  
Economics and Governance Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

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To Whom It May Concern

### DEBT REDUCTION AND SAVINGS BILL 2021

The Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission to the Committee's Inquiry considering the *Debt Reduction and Savings Bill 2021*.

ASBEC is a body of peak organisations committed to a sustainable built environment in Australia. ASBEC's membership consists of industry and professional associations, non-government organisations and government observers who are involved in the planning, design, delivery and operation of our built environment.

We have thirty industry members, including the Property Council of Australia, Green Building Council of Australia, Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia, Consult Australia, Planning Institute of Australia, Engineers Australia, Australian Institute of Architects, Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, Energy Efficiency Council and Facilities Management Association of Australia.

**We write specifically in relation to the proposal to "abolish Building Queensland (BQ) and the BQ board".**

A core priority for ASBEC is the delivery of integrated sustainable and climate resilient infrastructure.

Independent infrastructure agencies are key to great infrastructure outcomes; delivering greater independence, transparency and a stronger evidence base to support infrastructure decision making and policy development. A vital component for an infrastructure agency is independent governance, as outlined in Consult Australia's 2018 publication, *iBodies - Infrastructure Governance in Australia*.

An essential function of Building Queensland (BQ) is to provide independent, expert and transparent advice to the Queensland Government. A governance and reporting structure that enables BQ to provide advice independent of perceived, potential or actual political influence is critical to BQ's credibility both in the eyes of the public and for decision makers. Additionally, the provision of best practice governance that reflects broad industry expertise helps build certainty for investors in a strong long-term infrastructure pipeline that can be credibly supported across electoral cycles.

In the context of the [Queensland Government announcement of a \\$14.8B capital program for 2020-21](#) and a [total infrastructure program of \\$56B over the next four years](#), the allocation of around \$1M per annum to support best-practice governance in infrastructure advice and decision making represents a modest and sound investment in Queensland's infrastructure future.

**ASBEC does not support the repeal of the *Building Queensland Act 2015*, nor the abolition of Building Queensland.** We recommend the removal of this part of the Debt Reduction and Savings Bill 2021.

We would be pleased to engage with you further to discuss the vital independent role of Building Queensland in delivering more productive and sustainable infrastructure. Please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] should you have further questions.

Yours Sincerely



Suzanne Toumbourou  
Executive Director

