

Question on Notice
No. 694
Asked on Wednesday, 26 May 2021

MR N DAMETTO ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI)

With reference to the fire protection licensing changes that became effective on 1 May—

Will the Minister detail which relevant industry bodies/groups were consulted prior to the introduction of the changes?

ANSWER

The new, streamlined fire protection licensing framework was industry-led and based on extensive consultation, dating back to 2015.

Initial work was undertaken by the Queensland Building and Construction Commission's Fire Protection Working Group (FPWG) which consisted of a broad range of representatives from the fire protection, building, plumbing, electrical and insurance sectors, including the Fire Protection Association Australia (FPAA).

In 2017, following statewide public consultation, the Queensland Government made a commitment under the Queensland Building Plan to consider rationalising the existing fire protection licensing framework.

In 2018, the national Building Confidence Report also highlighted the need for a strong regulatory framework for fire safety, including mandatory registration of fire safety practitioners and greater oversight of the installation and certification of fire safety systems.

In 2019, a Ministerial Construction Council (MCC) subcommittee was established to finalise the work of the FPWG and provide recommendations for a new fire protection licensing framework. The MCC subcommittee comprised key industry representatives from the fire protection, plumbing, building, electrical and engineering sectors.

The subcommittee's recommended new fire protection licensing framework was endorsed by the MCC, which includes representatives of:

- Australian Manufacturers and Workers Union
- Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union
- Electrical Trades Union
- Engineers Australia
- Housing Industry Association
- Landscape Queensland
- Master Builders Queensland
- Master Concreters Australia
- Master Electricians Australia
- Master Painters Queensland

- Master Plumbers Association of Queensland
- National Association of Women in Construction
- National Fire Industry Association
- Plumbers' Union Queensland
- Queensland Building and Construction Commission
- Queensland Council of Unions
- Subcontractors Alliance
- Board of Architects of Queensland
- Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland.

To support successful implementation of the reforms, an industry stakeholder reference group has been established by the Queensland Building and Construction Commission. The reference group includes a broad range of key stakeholders, including MCC subcommittee members and the FPAA, to support industry awareness about the changes and address any issues in a timely fashion.