

Question on Notice
No. 977
Asked on Thursday, 24 August 2023

MS F SIMPSON ASKED MINISTER FOR ENERGY, RENEWABLES AND HYDROGEN AND MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND PROCUREMENT (HON M DE BRENNI)

With reference to the licensed trades people, including builders, waterproofers and tilers, who by law will have to implement the significant changes to the construction code from 1 May 2023 and further changes from October 2023—

Will the Minister advise (a) how much the department and QBCC have spent on technical advisory education to help these trades be fully informed to be able to be compliant and (b) when these technical education sessions and communiques have occurred?

ANSWER

The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB), on behalf of the Australian Government and each State and Territory government, produces and maintains the National Construction Code. In its administration role, the ABCB provides comprehensive technical educational resources and support for implementation.

The ABCB has published extensive materials and undertaken numerous activities to support the NCC 2022 changes. Since May 2022, this has included webinars, seminars, videos, handbooks, calculator tools, content for industry publications and continuing professional development programs and other collaboration with industry associations for a smooth transition.

This is a core function for the ABCB.

To complement this, the Department of Energy and Public Works (DEPW) has focussed its efforts on developing and supporting transitional arrangements. This includes, for example:

- undertaking extensive engagement with industry representatives over the last nine months (resulting in practical and sensible transitional measures and exemptions which will be implemented through the Queensland Development Code (QDC);
- publishing the new “*Guideline for applying transitional arrangements when building requirements change*”, published on the Business Queensland webpage on 15 August 2023 to support building certifiers; and
- providing advice to industry on the NCC 2022 changes, including regular engagement with industry bodies such as the Australian Institute of Building Surveyors, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Master Builders, Australian Institute of Architects (including presentations at industry seminars for organisations such as the Urban Development Institute of Australia, Property Council of Australia and the Housing Industry Association).

Further engagement is planned, with DEPW to work with industry and the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) to support awareness and understanding of the changes.

The cost of the work undertaken by DEPW and the QBCC on developing and supporting transitional arrangements is not separately identified as it forms part of the core functions of both organisations.