

22 February 2016

Committee Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Via Email: eec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary

Submission to ABCC Inquiry

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation; the Queensland Law Society appreciates being consulted in relation to these important reforms.

The Society has had a long-standing commitment to evidence-based policy, and its position in relation to this legislation is informed by that stance.

At the outset, I can advise that the Society is generally supportive of re-establishing the Australian Building and Construction Commission. Feedback from our policy committee members is that in its previous incarnation, the Commission provided an avenue for employers in the construction industry to ventilate issues, which no longer exists under the current system.

The Society is also supportive of the government being informed by the findings of the Heydon Royal Commission, which was a comprehensive review of the issues and appears to have made recommendations based on rigorously obtained and tested evidence.

Unfortunately, given the time limits involved, the Society has been unable to obtain detailed feedback from its policy committees in relation to specific recommendations, nor has a section – by – section review of the proposed legislation been possible. Therefore the Society's submission is necessarily brief.

Again I thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this inquiry. Should you wish to discuss these issues further, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Society's Senior Policy Advisor, Shane Budden

Yours faithfully

**Bill Potts
President**