



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

Feb 17th 2016

Ref: Building and Construction Industry (Improving Productivity) Bill 2013 [No.2] and the Building and Construction Industry (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2013 [No.2]

Thank you for the opportunity to offer a submission to the Building and Construction Industry (Improving Productivity) Bill 2013 [No.2] and the Building and Construction Industry (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2013 [No.2].

We have canvassed our members and they are overwhelmingly in favour of recommended expansion of the role of the Commissioner of the ABCC that will see a return to stronger regulation of unlawful conduct, and promote respect for the rule of law in the construction industry.

In fact 84% of the membership are in support of the move feeling that it will have a positive effect for those of the membership that deliver to building and construction sites. The remaining 16% believe that this move will ratify existing practices, so overall the perception is that the reinstatement of the ABCC is a positive one.

With regards to the expansion of the definition to include transportation or supply of goods to site is widely regarded as a positive move with 89% of the membership stating that it is a positive move offering protections for businesses that have not been previously available.

Also 89% of the membership also feels that while the powers of the ABCC to monitor and promote standards of conduct of Building industry participants with powers to investigate and institute legal proceedings is a positive move towards addressing the tendency towards militancy by certain participants in the industrial relations arena.

While many members feel that the objective of the Bill is sufficient in ensuring an improvement in productivity, nearly 58% of the membership feels that the Commissioner should be more actively involved in a review of:

- the training available to the sector to ensure apprentices have the appropriate skills to enter the sector.
- Business planning and management.
- A mechanism to ensure that practitioners undertake yearly assessments with regards to building knowledge, capability and ethics.



Overall the membership has a very positive and supportive position with regards to the expanded role of the Commissioner and the commission.

Should you require further information please do not hesitate in contacting us at the numbers listed above.

Sincerely

Peter Alexander
Acting President
Timber Merchants Association (VIC).