

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 1 November 2006

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES  
**TOPIC:** AUSTRALIAN BUILDING CODES BOARD – DISABILITY ACCESS STANDARDS  
**REFERENCE:** WRITTEN QUESTION

**QUESTION No.SI-30**

**Senator Carr** asked:

In light of the recent government response to Senate Question No. 2443, that "Amendments to the BCA arising from a Premises Standard would follow the usual amendment process established by the ABCB", what is the usual amendment process and the timeline of that process?

**ANSWER**

The BCA is amended once every year. Draft proposals for amendments are issued for public comment in June for a period of two months. Comments received on the draft are considered by the ABCB's Building Codes Committee which makes recommendations to the Board on the content of the amendment. Finalisation of the content of the amendment occurs in December and the BCA is published and distributed to subscribers during January and February. The new version of the BCA is then enacted by State and Territory legislation from 1 May annually.

**QUESTION No.SI-31**

**Senator Carr** asked:

Given that the terms of reference for the Building Access Policy Committee (BAPC) indicate that ABCB will publish BAPC recommendations for changes to the BCA, when is the BAPC additional advice to the ABCB going to be published (i.e. the BAPC advice provided subsequent to BAPC recommendations published for public comment in January 2004)?

**ANSWER**

The BAPC's recommendations for changes to the BCA were published and released for public comment in January 2004. The BAPC subsequently provided additional advice to the ABCB. The Board considered this advice and put forward a proposal to Ministers. This advice and the Board's proposal to Ministers remains confidential at this time.