

Mr Tony Hinton
Commissioner
Productivity Commission
PO Box 80
Belconnen ACT 2617

12 July 2004

Dear Commissioner Hinton,

RE: Study into Reform of Building Regulation

Further to the submission from FPA Australia into the Productivity Commission's Study into Reform of Building Regulation, the Association wishes to provide further comment for consideration in preparing the Study's draft report.

Recently FPA Australia in conjunction with the Institute of Fire Engineers conducted their annual Fire Australia Conference & Exhibition. The theme for Fire Australia 2004 was ***Property Protection & the Regulatory Environment – Unlocking the Power of Codes***. The conference drew on the expertise of highly credential local and overseas presenters to provide papers on a broad range of subjects relating to the theme. Over the course of Fire Australia 2004 just under 400 attendees, representative of the broad spectrum of the fire safety industry attended the event. On the final session of the three-day conference the delegates passed a number of resolutions.

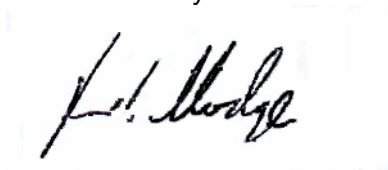
FPA Australia is of the view that two of the resolutions passed unanimously by the delegates are of significant importance to the Productivity Commission's current study, being:

1. Resolved that; The concept of Property Protection to be reflected in Building Regulations using concepts similar to those contained in the International Codes Council guidelines to help resolve the conflict between Building Codes and Fire Service Legislation
2. Resolved that; The Federal Government be encouraged to establish a national repository of fire data incorporating all relevant information including fire service loss data; to make this information available to all relevant stakeholders

Both of these resolutions have a direct correlation with FPA Australia's submission to the study. On: page 6, Section 4 – *Conflict between BCA and Fire Brigade Legislation*; and page 14, Section 15 – *Administrative Framework*, the comment provided in the FPA Australia Submission has been endorsed by the conference delegates supporting resolutions 1 and 2 respectively. Therefore, given the broad support from Industry at Fire Australia 2004, FPA Australia now requests that due consideration is given to including these matters raised, in preparing recommendations in the Productivity Commission's draft and any subsequent reports.

FPA Australia looks forward to the opportunity to contribute to the next stage of this study.

Yours sincerely



Ross Hodge
Executive Director – FPA Australia