

9. DISCUSSION DOCUMENT ON BETTER REGULATION OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY IN NEW ZEALAND

Officer responsible Environmental Services Manager	Author John Buchan, Building Control Manager, DDI 941-8687
--	--

The purpose of this report is to consider the attached draft response to the questions posed by the Ministry for Economic Development discussion document "Better Regulation of the Building Industry in NZ". The closing date for responses is 11 April 2003. The Council has delegated authority to this Committee to lodge submissions on its behalf.

BACKGROUND

Local Government is co-ordinating a sector response and held a workshop in Wellington on 19 March 2003. The Hon Lianne Dalziel, Minister of Commerce, addressed the meeting and outlined the planned time frame. Submissions to the discussion document will be considered and incorporated together with previous reviews of the Building Act into a draft amendment bill which will go through a six month select committee process and then to Parliament with a target to have the legislation enacted in February 2004.

The very tight timeframe means that some processes are taking place concurrently and an example of this is a report being done for the government to analyse the costs and benefits of the proposals in the discussion document. This information which is relevant to a response to the discussion document is not available at this stage but will be available when considering the draft amendment bill later in the year.

Local Government New Zealand is planning to have a draft submission on the discussion document sent to all Councils by 7 April 2003 and would like responses by 10 April 2003 so they can finalise a sector response by the deadline of 11 April 2003.

SUBMISSION

Copies of the discussion document have been circulated to Councillors with this agenda. The attached questions and answers need to be read within the context of the discussion document. The 47 questions cover the following topics:

1. General.
2. Extending the Scope of the Building Act 1991.
3. Better Designs, Methods and Products.
4. Accrediting Inspectors and Certifiers.
5. Certifying Products and Processes.
6. Assessing the Benefits and Costs of Controls.
7. Capable People.
8. Improving Information.
9. Putting Things Right:
 - Mandatory Building Warranty,
 - Enhanced Dispute Resolution,
 - When Building Professionals Fail,
 - Insurance, Bomb and Guarantee Funds.
10. Enhancing Enforcement.

Staff

Recommendation: That the attached response on the discussion document be forwarded to the Ministry for Economic Development.

Chairman's

Recommendation: For discussion.