



What you need to know about

# the Building Regulations Advisory Committee

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*Building Commission*



## What is the Building Regulations Advisory Committee?

The Building Regulations Advisory Committee (BRAC) is a committee of building industry representatives that has two roles set out in the *Building Act 1993*. It provides advice to the Minister for Planning on draft building regulations and also accredits building products, construction methods and components or systems connected with building work.

## What is its role in providing regulatory advice?

The BRAC considers proposed amendments to the Building Code of Australia (BCA), proposed Australian Standards referenced in the BCA and Victorian building regulation amendments.

The Building Commission also seeks the advice of the BRAC on technical, administrative and regulatory issues. This can include seeking responses to fire reports prepared by the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board and the Country Fire Authority, matters raised by other industry bodies and its members, as well as matters raised by other statutory bodies.

## What is BRAC's role in product accreditation?

The BRAC assesses product accreditation applications against the performance requirements of the BCA. The product accreditation process relates to innovative solutions that are difficult to assess by individual building surveyors. Central assessment provides the opportunity for consistency and greater efficiency. The BRAC cannot consider applications for building products in circumstances where the product complies with the deemed-to-satisfy provisions of the BCA.

Further details on its accreditation role can be found in the Building Commission's Building Product Accreditation brochure.

## Who are the members of BRAC?

The value of BRAC's advice lies in the breadth of the opinions it can canvas and consider in the preparation of its responses to regulatory proposals. Members of the Committee primarily achieve this through proactive participation. Members of the building industry can bring relevant matters to the BRAC for consideration through their relevant industry representative.

The Minister for Planning appoints the members of BRAC as follows:

- The Building Commissioner (Chair)
- A nominee of the Minister responsible for public construction
- A representative of the fire services, being the Country Fire Authority and the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board
- A nominee of the Melbourne City Council
- A representative of Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Victorian Chapter
- A representative of Engineers Australia, Victorian Division
- A representative of the Master Builders Association of Victoria
- One representative from the Housing Industry Association, Victoria/Tasmania Division
- One representative from the Property Council of Australia
- A representative of the Municipal Association of Victoria
- Two representatives of the Australian Institute of Building Surveyors, Victorian Chapter
- A nominee of the Minister with relevant building industry experience
- At least one legal practitioner representative
- At least one consumer representative.

## Who attends BRAC meetings?

BRAC maintains links with other related statutory bodies by inviting observers to attend its meetings. These observers participate in meetings relevant to the matters under discussion. Observers include representatives from the Plumbing Industry Commission, additional fire services representatives and additional representatives from Engineers Australia.

## Need more information?

More information regarding the BRAC product accreditation process can be found in the following brochure:

*What you need to know about Building Product Accreditation*

Telephone +61 3 9285 6400 Facsimile +61 3 9285 6464  
Level 27, 2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000

publicrelations@buildingcommission.com.au  
[www.buildingcommission.com.au](http://www.buildingcommission.com.au)

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