

**Submission of the**

**NZ Construction Industry Council**

**on the MED Discussion Document: Better  
Regulation of the Building Industry in NZ**

**April 2003**

## **Background**

This submission is made on behalf of the NZ Construction Industry Council Inc (NZCIC).

The NZCIC is a peak consultative body comprising all the major NZ construction industry associations, which have a national structure and focus.

Individual member organisations of the NZ Construction Industry Council have made their own submissions on the Discussion Document. A list of the current NZ CIC members is appended for your reference.

## **Introduction**

The NZCIC supports the review in principle. We understand that the summary of the previous reviews undertaken by the Department of Internal Affairs will be incorporated in any drafting of new legislation. We await the Bill with interest.

We would also like to note the tight timeframe for consultation on this Discussion Document. Given the importance of the proposed reforms and their wide-reaching implications, the NZCIC strongly recommends that the reforms be given full consideration before implementation. To that end, the NZCIC is prepared to offer officials the availability of an industry task force for further consultation.

## **General comments**

We strongly suggest that the Minister reconsiders the decision to disestablish the BIA and move its functions to a government department. We believe this would be a retrograde step and that it would be better to improve the governance and capability of the BIA rather than disestablishing it altogether. There is a necessity for greater guidance and assistance to be given to the industry and to TAs by the BIA, resulting in more consistent interpretation of requirements. The BIA also needs to be more transparently accessible to industry, and not less as might be the case if it were housed within Government.

## **Building Act specific changes**

The NZCIC believes that the Building Act is fundamentally sound and may require refining but not conceptual change. To that end we continue to support a performance-based system which encourages and facilitates innovation.

We believe equal weighting should be given to the features of durability, amenity, sustainability and whole of life costing in the Act along side the existing health and safety provisions.

## **Consumer Protection**

While we support greater consumer protection we believe this can be achieved by the consumer's ability to choose from a register of building practitioners who are qualified, along with the public good funding of standards development and research. We therefore recommend that greater public good funding be given to standards development and research in the construction sector.

We also agree with the concept of product certification.

## **Registration of Building Practitioners**

The NZCIC supports accountability and responsibility within the construction sector. Thus we generally support registration of building practitioners to the extent that there are effective mechanisms to ensure that they can carry out work they are competent to deliver .

## **Education and training**

The NZCIC recognises the importance of skills / competency (and associated training and qualifications) to improving quality outcomes within the construction industry.

We support:

- Requiring people in the industry to be competent before undertaking certain work.
- The linking (where appropriate) of industry registration to industry training and qualifications
- Improved levels of funding commensurate with industry requirements, in keeping with the Government's own priorities as set out in the Tertiary Education Strategy.

## **On behalf of the Construction Industry Council**

Association of Consulting Engineers NZ (ACENZ)  
Building & Construction ITO (BCITO)  
Building Industry Federation (BIFNZ)  
Building Officials Institute of NZ (BOINZ)  
Building Research Association of NZ (BRANZ)  
Cement & Concrete Association of NZ (CCANZ)  
Institution of Professional Engineers NZ (IPENZ)  
New Zealand Institute of Surveyors  
NZ Building Subcontractors Federation (NZBSF)  
NZ Certified Builders Association Inc (NZCBA)  
NZ Contracting ITO (NZCITO)  
NZ Contractors Federation (NZCF)  
NZ Institute of Building Inc (NZIOB)  
NZ Institute of Building Surveyors

NZ Institute of Landscape Architects (NZILA)  
NZ Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NZIQS)  
NZ Planning Institute (NZPI)  
NZ Property Institute Inc  
Pavement & Bitumen Contractors Assn (PBCA)  
Property Council of New Zealand (PCNZ)  
Registered Master Builders Federation (RMBF)  
Site Safe New Zealand