

Submission

No 13

INQUIRY INTO THE OPERATIONS OF THE HOME BUILDING SERVICE

Organisation: Builders' Collective of Australia

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Subject:

Summary

8 November 2006

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Via email: gpscno4@parliament.nsw.gov.au

The Builders Collective of Australia has over the last few years been the pre-eminent group lobbying for reform to the operation of both the Home Building Service and its interstate counterparts and has consistently brought forward issues on behalf of builders and their consumers.

In particular we have focused on reform of privatised Builders Warranty Insurance and the on-flow of industry issues that this product has produced. These issues are precisely those that you have identified in the terms of reference, namely:

- a) The builder licensing system
- b) The Home Warranty Insurance Scheme
- c) The resolution of complaints
- d) The exercise of disciplinary powers
- e) The enforcement of relevant legislative and regulatory provisions
- f) The establishment of a Home Building Advice and Advocacy Centre.

The BCA recently made written and verbal submissions to the Upper House Select Committee in Tasmania and the main thrust of that submission (aside from the TCC) was to convince the inquiry that the Queensland model of Consumer Protection, Dispute Resolution and Industry management is the starting point from where all other states need to begin the reform process. This view was very well received by the committee members and I attach a transcript copy of our verbal submissions together with a transcript of a speech given to the Tasmanian HIA on the 28th October 2006 by the Attorney General and Deputy Premier Mr Steve Kons.

The Queensland system has been in operation for nearly 10 years and has succeeded in providing excellent outcomes while being no impost on taxpayers. This is clearly articulated on the QBSA website (<http://www.bsa.qld.gov.au/Home/Default.htm>) via detailed annual reports and the like, hence it may be superfluous for us to go into undue detail in this initial written submission.

In a nutshell, the Queensland model works. We would be speaking to that end as we make ourselves available for a verbal submission to your inquiry as we feel a verbal explanation and presentation would be more appropriate as we can then provide additional written material to support our views and to answer further questions that the committee may already have or would wish to raise consequential to our presentation.

Thank you for instigating this very timely inquiry and we look forward to making a positive input in the very near future.

Kind Regards,

Phil Dwyer
National President
Builders Collective of Australia