

## Media Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE USE

Date: May 25, 2017

# BPIC Welcomes QLD Legislation to Stop Non-Conforming Building Products

The Building Products Innovation Council (BPIC) has today welcomed new legislation introduced into the Queensland Parliament to control the incidence of Non-Conforming Building Products (NCBPs) and congratulates the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) and the QLD Government for listening to the concerns of industry.

“The building products industry has, for many years, been warning of the dangers and consequences of lax building regulations in Queensland and across the country,” Elizabeth McIntyre the Chair of BPIC said, “Now that these serious problems have come to pass, it is encouraging to see the QLD Government taking a tough and decisive stand on building and construction practices that have eroded public confidence in the building sector and cost consumers and insurers multi-millions of dollars in rectification works.”

“We are particularly pleased that the QLD Government has engaged with the building products industry and listened carefully to the concerns that our members have expressed.”

“While the rest of the country appears to be doing little of practical benefit to control the spread of NCBP’s, Queensland now leads the nation, and in doing so reduces the risks and costs to the public and the building industry,” Ms McIntyre said.

The existence of NCBPs in a building are a nightmare for consumers, because they are usually only discovered in certain situations such as where damage to the building results from the sudden failure of the product or where the poor durability of the product is revealed through its inability to resist reasonable wear and tear.

In these instances, considerable costs will be involved for consumers due to the need for the product to be identified and removed from affected buildings and replaced by suitable product which conforms to standards. Owners may also be faced with associated costs such as being deprived of using some or all of their buildings, higher insurance premiums and potentially reduced property values as a result of the perception that the building is sub-standard.

“While the industry is yet to fully assess the details and impact of the proposed Legislation, it appears to articulate the actions that need to be taken, and where the responsibilities lie, to rectify the issues raised by the Review of the Building Act 1975 and Building Certification (Wallace Report),” she said.

“Not only does the new Legislation have the potential to remedy the many problems associated with product and building code compliance, we are hopeful that these changes will also drive improved productivity in the Queensland building products industry,” says Ms McIntyre, “Furthermore we note and welcome the apparent alignment of existing Workplace Health and Safety legislation and duty of care provisions, which have the potential to spearhead a seachange across all Australian states and territories.”

Significantly improving the stringency of the building code and regulations will also have a flow-on effect to consumers and homeowners, guaranteeing they are getting what they have paid for and not shoddy or potentially dangerous substitute products and buildings.

“For improved stringencies to have the desired effect, it is imperative that they endure beyond the current government’s tenure and become the cornerstone of sound, responsible government oversight of the building industry into the future,” she said, “Which is why we encourage the Opposition and all QLD crossbenchers to support these moves to stamp out NCBPs.”

## **-ENDS-**

**Media Enquiries:** Rodger Hills M: 0438 740 240

E: [eo@bpic.asn.au](mailto:eo@bpic.asn.au)

**About BPIC:** The Building Products Innovation Council (BPIC) is the national peak body representing Australia’s building product associations who support Australia’s building product manufacturers and suppliers. BPIC’s members and associated member companies directly employ over 200,000 Australians with more than 470,000 employed indirectly. Their collective industries are worth over \$54bn annually to the Australian economy.

For more information about BPIC visit [www.bpic.asn.au](http://www.bpic.asn.au)