



The Association of
Hydraulic Services Consultants Australia (NSW) Inc.

NAS/RGW:
31st January 2017

Department of Planning and The Environment
Via web-portal: http://planspolicies.planning.nsw.gov.au/?action=view_job&job_id=8165

To whom it may concern.

Re: Proposed changes to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000

Our Association is involved in the design, documentation and supervision of Hydraulic and Fire services throughout Australia. We are not a contracting organisation.

Following the review of the recently released *Discussion Paper and Draft Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Fire Safety and Building Certification) Regulation 2017*, we wish to provide our Association's comments on the proposed Regulation in relation to the definition of a Competent Fire Safety Practitioner.

Up until 2014/2015 our Association held numerous discussions with the BPB since its formation and also with its predecessor (DIAS) in relation to our members certifying their essential fire services designs i.e. Part 4a certificates. Our members were also involved in the BPB disciplinary review panels.

To date our association has not been involved in any discussions with the Department of Planning and the Environment, the BPD or Mr Lambert on these proposed changes. We have sent letters and attempted to meet however this has been unsuccessful.

We understand that all of the above have met with various contractor's associations in NSW / Australia to seek their opinions as to possible proposed changes.

In our opinion no consideration has yet been given to the Hydraulic and Fire services design professionals and we feel disappointed with the lack of engagement to date.

It is not yet 100% clear to us as to what direction this process will take but we would like to be involved where possible, in any future discussions.

As our members are design professionals in the fire industry any changes in government policy could inadvertently cause them a restriction to trade.

We wish to confirm that full members of the AHSCA have been deemed competent by the BPB previously to qualify for C16 status in respect to Hydraulic and Essential Fire Services and so with this endorsement and a copy of the relevant Company PI insurance details pertinent to that level of competency together with up to date CPD requirements, we would expect this is sufficient to enable our members to provide design certification under the proposed Accreditation Scheme.

Our CPD Scheme which was introduced in 1998 and implemented in 1999 for all Full Members was revised in 2010 following extensive meetings with BPB which resulted in our scheme receiving BPB endorsement and since that time the AHSCA has continued to offer an ongoing CPD program to its members.

We would also like to ask if the Master Plumbers Association of NSW have been asked to participate in any discussions, there members install numerous fire systems and their involvement would be very beneficial to all parties.

With regards to training and accreditation we advise that TAFE NSW have run a Diploma in Hydraulics for over two decades which runs a key subject in Fire Systems Designs. This course covers the design, commissioning and maintenance of essential fire systems.

We look forward to your response to our input and should any further information be required please contact the undersigned on 0407 240 451.

Yours Faithfully,
AHSCA (NSW) Inc.



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