

Frequently Asked Questions

Registration and Licensing of Building Trade Subcontractors and Employees

Q1. What is the purpose of the Options Paper?

- A. An Options Paper has been prepared to support consultation on options to implement the new registration and licensing scheme for carpentry tradespeople in Victoria.

The Options Paper seeks to:

- communicate and seek feedback on options already identified by stakeholders;
- draw out any new options and ideas for consideration that can be analysed in a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS); and
- seek feedback and information on other issues raised.

The Options Paper is part of the policy making process to identify feasible options for analysis in a RIS.

A RIS allows the comparison of several options to determine a preferred approach. It provides stakeholders and the public with an opportunity to contribute towards the development of policy and new regulations. A RIS for the new registration and licensing scheme for carpentry tradespeople is expected to be released later this year.

Q2. What is included in the Options Paper?

- A. The Options Paper is structured to seek feedback on options for **core elements of the new scheme**. It also packages these options to show how core elements might interact to create the new scheme.

Core elements of the scheme include:

- **Scope of work** – what carpentry work should be restricted?
- **Class of practitioner** – who can do restricted carpentry work?
- **Registration and licensing criteria** – what criteria does someone need to satisfy to safely and competently perform restricted carpentry work? For example, level of formal qualification (including business competency requirements for subcontractors) and relevant practical experience.
- **Personal and financial probity requirements** – what criteria does someone need to satisfy to do restricted work? Personal probity requirements are the minimum standards of integrity that a person must demonstrate to carry out an activity. Broadly speaking, financial probity requirements include considerations surrounding appropriate insurance, insolvency and outstanding debts.
- **Transitional matters** – how does someone enter the new registration and licensing scheme? For example, how does a person meet the requirements over time to become registered or licensed and still perform restricted carpentry work?

The Options Paper provides a summary of the existing building practitioner registration system and explains why the government is expanding regulation of building practitioners to tradespeople.

Consultation questions are summarised in the 'Essential Information' section at the start of the Options Paper.

Q3. What is not in the Options Paper and when will these matters be considered?

- A.** The Options Paper does not present a preferred option. All options in the Options Paper are included for consultation purposes and should not be understood as being indicative of a preference on the part of the Victorian Government. A preferred option will be identified after consultation and the development of a RIS. The RIS will be released later in the year and will be subject to further consultation.

The Options Paper does not present options on all parts of the proposed scheme – only core elements (please refer to question 2 for an explanation of the core elements). Elements of the scheme which are dependent on core elements are set out in section 5 of the Options Paper and these will be determined based on the approach taken to core elements. Options for all elements of the scheme will be presented in the RIS to be released for public comment in June/July this-year.

Q4. How can I have a say on the Options Paper?

- A.** Your input is sought to provide:
- feedback on options presented in the Options Paper;
 - any new options or ideas for consideration; and
 - responses to the questions asked in the Options Paper.

Anyone wishing to respond to the Options Paper is encouraged to submit a response either online, or by email or post.

Please make your submission by **5pm, Wednesday, 1 April 2020**.

- If you wish to respond **online**, you can visit <https://engage.vic.gov.au/registration-and-licensing-building-trades>.
- Alternatively, responses can be **emailed** directly to building.policy@delwp.vic.gov.au or
- Sent via **post marked Attention to: Building Division**, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne Victoria 3002.

All submissions will be treated as public documents and may be referenced in further policy development or other public documents including a RIS, unless the submitter has requested that their submission remain confidential or be de-identified.

Q5. How will my comments be considered by Government?

- A.** Your submission will be collected by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) for the purpose of informing the development of the new registration and licensing scheme for tradespeople.

DELWP may do the following with the content of your submission:

1. Publish a copy of your submission on the DELWP website or other Victorian Government website.
2. Quote directly from your feedback in the RIS or other related policy document.

All submissions are public documents. Please do not include information that may personally identify you or comments about other persons in the body of your submission.

If you do not wish your submission to be published or to have content from your submission quoted in DELWP public documents, please email building.policy@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Q6. When are submissions on the Options Paper due?

- A.** The closing date for submissions on the Options Paper is **5pm, Wednesday 1 April 2020**.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q7. The Options Paper says workshops on options will be conducted, how can I find out more about these workshops?

- A. DELWP will conduct a number of workshops on the Options Paper. While exact dates and venues are still being determined, these workshops are proposed to be conducted later in March 2020.

To register your interest in attending a workshop, please email building.policy@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Q8. What happens next?

- A. DELWP will use submissions and information obtained in response to the Options Paper to inform the development of the new registration and licensing scheme for carpentry tradespeople.

Initially, this information will be used to identify feasible options to consider in the RIS that will be released later in the year for further consultation. A draft version of the regulations that will give effect to the new scheme for carpentry work will also be released for consultation with the RIS.

Q9. When will the regulations be made?

- A. At this stage, it is anticipated the regulations required to give effect to the scheme will be made by **1 September 2020**.

However, the government understands that industry needs time to plan and prepare for change. For this reason, the scheme's **actual commencement date** is subject to consultation and implementation considerations and is likely to be set after 1 September 2020.

Q10. Will I get a chance to have another say?

- A. Yes. Following consultation on the Options Paper, DELWP will prepare a RIS which will analyse feasible policy options and identify a preferred option. An exposure draft of the regulations will also be prepared and released for consultation at this time.

Both the RIS and draft regulations will be made available for public comment in June/July this-year.

For project updates, please monitor the project's webpage: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/registration-and-licensing-building-trades>