



*Secretariat: Ai Group 51 Walker St North Sydney NSW 2060*

## **Stakeholder Update – Summer 2014**

Welcome to the Stakeholder Update Summer 2014 from the Construction Product Alliance (Alliance).

### **Current Issues**

Recent issues, such as the ACCC recall of electrical cable, and asbestos in imported plasterboard, are timely reminders that non-conforming product (NCP) remains a significant issue to consumers, industry and Government and again a good reason why industry should support the work of the Alliance.

### **Establishment of the Alliance**

Industry has responded to the NCP issue by forming the Alliance to undertake actions designed to improve the current conformance framework for building and construction products. Industry recognises that not acting on the issue of NCP poses risks to productivity, safety, sustainability of businesses and longevity of built assets.

The primary goals of the Alliance are to improve the effectiveness of the building and construction products conformance framework to lead to a fairer playing field for manufacturers, importers and distributors by developing:

- A communications program to apprise building and construction industry participants, consumers, policy makers and regulators of the current situation with NCP and the advantages of reducing / eliminating NCP within the Australian market.
- Tools and materials relevant to individual sectors to increase rigor and enforcement of conforming 'fit for purpose' product used in construction.
- A proposal for decision makers including government containing recommendations to address NCP.

The Alliance operates pursuant to a Steering Committee comprised of key industry stakeholders. The Steering Committee met on 5 occasions during 2014. Its current members are:

- Ai Group (Chair) – Lindsay Le Compte
- Ai Group (Secretary) – James Thomson
- Australian Institute of Building Surveyors – Darryl O'Brien
- Australasian Procurement and Construction Council – Jane Montgomery - Hribar
- Australian Steel Institute - David Ryan
- Australian Window Association - Tracey Gramlick
- CSR – Ray Thompson
- Engineers Australia – John Anderson
- Housing Industry Association – Kristin Brookfield
- JASANZ – Brett Abraham

The Alliance has formed working groups of interested stakeholders that are driving the following initiatives:

- Investigating the current building and construction product conformance framework in Australia to identify gaps and weaknesses.
- Identifying the legal / liability / risk levers that currently exist in the framework and all relevant agencies and their roles.
- Deeper engagement with stakeholders including Government.
- Developing papers (to assist industry sectors) outlining key elements, processes and principles including case studies of surveillance and certification schemes.
- Creating educational material highlighting the NCP issue and promoting the Australian Procurement and Construction Council guide.
- Developing a web portal containing information on NCP highlighting the work of the Alliance.
- Developing a communication / marketing plan for a flyer, portal, guides and other educational material.

### **Current Activities**

On 26 November 2014, member representatives of the Alliance and its Steering Committee participated in an industry roundtable on NCP conducted by the Hon. Bob Baldwin, Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister for Industry. The Hon. Josh Freydenberg, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, also attended the roundtable.

At the meeting, the Alliance briefed the Government representatives on its activities and tabled a document setting out issues requiring government input and action. As a result of the discussion points raised by industry at the meeting, the government invited industry representatives present to make formal submissions on action required to address the NCP issue with key focus points being effective regulatory models that do not increase red tape for industry.

The Alliance has now made a submission to the government and a copy is available on request.

The Alliance will continue its work in 2015 and will vigorously pursue its proposals with governments and other parties.

The Alliance wishes one and all a restful break over the festive season.

### **For further information please contact**

**James Thomson Secretary Ph: 02 4925 8313 Em: [james.thomson@aigroup.com.au](mailto:james.thomson@aigroup.com.au)**