

Western Australian Building and Construction Consultative Committee (BCC Committee)

Key Outcomes of Meeting 24 June 2025



- The Minister for Industrial Relations attended the BCC Committee meeting to provide members with an update on the government's strategic objectives relating to industrial relations and workforce development. During the meeting, the Minister discussed how these objectives align with the BCC Committee's role in supporting industry growth, improving workplace standards, and addressing current and emerging challenges across the sector.
- In addition, the Minister extended a special note of thanks to the retiring Chair, Mr Reg Howard-Smith, who has led the committee with distinction since its formation in 2022. Under his leadership, the committee has played a pivotal role in shaping policy recommendations and fostering constructive engagement between government, industry and other stakeholders.
- The Minister commended Mr Howard-Smith's commitment, experience, and leadership, which have been instrumental in laying a strong foundation for the committee's ongoing work.

- The Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety's Secretariat (The Secretariat) provided an update on the "Construction Induction Training Card" (or White Card) system review, a key deliverable arising from the BCC Committee Strategic plan. The Secretariat has undertaken significant stakeholder engagement with 911 industry members providing their views on the White Card and opportunities for improvement. Industry and BCC Committee member perspectives have formed the basis of a draft Case for Change to the Unit of Competency *CPCWHS1001 Prepare to work safely in the construction industry*.

BCC Committee members endorsed the draft Case for Change to review and modernise the White Card training content to include crystalline silica awareness, psychosocial hazard awareness, recent legislative changes and how to prepare suitable Safe Work Method Statements, in addition to the requirement to build regularly review the White Card content.

- The Secretariat briefed the BCC Committee on the progress of the State of Affairs report, which provides an overview of the current culture in the Western Australian commercial construction sector (and wider construction industry). A draft preliminary report has been provided to the Minister for Industrial Relations of the current issues within the sector, with a focus on commercial construction.

In addition, the Secretariat has been consulting with commercial construction stakeholders to identify in-practice culture improvement initiatives and gain information to support the recommendations of the report and has consulted with stakeholders supporting and/or employing apprentices to gain a greater understanding of the challenges relating to this cohort.

- The opportunity to licence additional specific trades has been identified in the BCC Committee Strategic Plan 2023-25 as an activity that requires some consideration by the Committee. Currently in Western Australia four trades are licensed; electrical, plumbing, painting and gas fitting and a number of other occupations are covered under registrations and activity based licences such as High Risk Work Licences. In other jurisdictions this number appears to be significantly higher.
- The Secretariat will meet with interested parties to understand the current challenges within the sector and report back to the BCC Committee at the September meeting.
- The next BCC Committee meeting is scheduled for a date to be confirmed upon appointment of the replacement Chair.