

Key Outcomes of the WA Building and Construction Consultative Committee (BCC Committee) meeting

Held on 07 July 2022

- The inaugural meeting of the BCC Committee commenced with the Chair welcoming all members and thanking them and their nominating organisations for agreeing to support this important initiative to provide a high level consultative forum for the commercial building and construction sector in Western Australia.
- The Chair thanked Darren Kavanagh (Worksafe WA Commissioner) for accepting the role as Deputy Chair of the BCC Committee should that need arise.
- The Chair highlighted the objectives of the BCC Committee as set out in the Terms of Reference to:
 - a) consult on and advise the Minister for Industrial Relations on issues of industrial relations, safety, diversity, and workforce management;
 - b) consult on and advise the Minister for Industrial Relations on economic issues relating to the building industry; and
 - c) promote an environment that will stimulate building activity, skills development and jobs growth.
- Members discussed how the meetings of the BCC Committee could operate to best achieve the objectives with consensus being the preferred outcome but with robust debate encouraged. A “Safety Moment” standing item will be placed on the Agenda and members can volunteer to share an issue and the learnings that arose. The Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association will share an issue at the next meeting
- The Chair outlined that if the BCC Committee identified priority projects funding may then be applied for and potentially sub-committees formed to progress these projects. The Chair also advised that he hoped to meet with the Chair and Secretariat of the Victorian Building Industry Consultative Council (Victorian BICC) later in the year as this body has been operating for about 20 years now and has a similar remit to the WA BCC Committee.
- The meeting agreed that the next meeting in early November would be a dedicated planning session to identify the issues for the BCC Committee to focus on. An external facilitator will be engaged for this session and a number of consultant names were provided to the Secretariat.
- The Worksafe WA Commissioner, Mr Darren Kavanagh, gave a comprehensive presentation on the newly implemented work health and safety laws in Western Australia.

- The meeting discussed issues around skills shortages. The encouraging increase in the number of female and indigenous apprentices was noted, but it was acknowledged that there is still a considerable shortfall in numbers and there are a number of areas where no trade qualification is available.
- An update on work being done by the Department of Training and Workforce Development to get into schools at an early stage to encourage people to take up apprenticeships was discussed. It was agreed that the issues around skills shortages and what the BCC Committee might do to influence this would be discussed at the planning session meeting in November.
- Members noted the introduction of Automatic Mutual Recognition legislation and that electrical license recognition will be phased in over the next three years to ensure the necessary standards are in place.
- The members were provided with an update on work being undertaken by the Victorian BICC and noted the significant achievement of the equity strategy that has been developed and implemented in that State for the commercial construction sector. The current focus for the Victorian BICC is on wellbeing and this will be a large body of work in coming years.
- The members discussed the impact of the procurement process on the commercial construction sector and the need for more cohesion and communication around this from Government.
- The meeting noted work that is underway to support better mental health in the construction industry and the initiatives implemented by MATES in Construction with significant funding from the WA Government to support this. The impact of gendered violence was discussed and the need for targeted action to address this was acknowledged.
- The recent changes to WA industrial relations laws were noted. The pending federal Government jobs summit in September was noted and the secretariat undertook to provide information to the BCC Committee on the job summit where possible.
- Members requested that where possible they be provided with comprehensive data to support the consideration of issues by the BCC Committee.