



The Hon Sonya Kilkeny MP

Minister for Planning
Minister for Outdoor Recreation

8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002 Australia

Ref: BMIN-1-23-2168

Dr Giorgio Marfella
Chair
Architects Registration Board of Victoria
Level 10, 533 Little Lonsdale Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Email: chair@arbv.vic.gov.au

Dear Dr Marfella

STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS FOR THE ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF VICTORIA

I am pleased to provide you with my expectations for the Architects Registration Board of Victoria (ARBV), to guide the regulator's business planning processes.

Legislative framework

As Minister for Planning, I am responsible for administering the *Architects Act 1991*, and this guidance should be read in the context of the objectives, obligations and functions outlined in this Act as amended.

This guidance should also be read in the context of any other legislative and non-legislative obligations on the ARBV.

Emerging risks and priorities

Based on consultation with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and the ARBV, about the government's priorities and emerging risks, I expect the ARBV to foster better practice in regulation and achieve improvements in regulatory efficiency and effectiveness, demonstrating the ARBV's value as a trusted regulator supporting the delivery of a high-quality built environment. I expect the ARBV to focus on the following three thematic priority elements:

- Risk-based strategies informed by enhanced data capture and knowledge gathering
- Improved delivery and regulatory responsiveness
- Stakeholder engagement and consultation

The initiatives and actions outlined below describe how I expect the ARBV to address these priority elements. This focus will enable the ARBV to address the recommendations of the Building System Review's Expert Panel (Expert Panel) Stage 1 Report, particularly recommendation 12 insofar as it relates to architects:

Modernise legislative schemes and regulate governance and operations for architects and design practitioners to ensure alignment with best practice and that qualification requirements include a focus on compliance with current regulatory settings.

Minister's Expectations

- **Risk-based strategies informed by enhanced data capture and knowledge gathering**

I expect the ARBV to continue to focus its regulatory activity and resources to where the risks of harm to community and industry are greatest. I expect the ARBV to continuously develop and improve its capacity as a risk-based regulator and proactively contribute to initiatives to modernise legislation.

Specifically, I expect the ARBV to:

1. Strengthen the ARBV's regulatory practice as recommended by the Expert Panel by continuing to improve systems, resources, intelligence and processes to embed its risk-based approach and evidence-led decision-making.
2. Identify regulatory focus areas as informed by enhanced data and intelligence, research and knowledge gathering, and implement targeted strategies to address these focus areas.
3. Broaden the focus of compliance and enforcement activity by:
 - developing strategies to better use and optimise existing regulatory powers, and
 - working collaboratively with DTP and government more widely to provide input into future legislative reforms for the betterment of the architectural sector and the construction industry overall.
4. Deliver public-facing communications about the regulatory strategy that drives transparency about the ARBV's activities.
5. Engage with research and knowledge gathering about the profession to better understand systemic issues and compliance disposition.

- **Improved delivery and regulatory responsiveness**

To ensure efficient delivery of regulatory functions I expect the ARBV to:

1. Improve service delivery and future activities by adhering to commitments in the ARBV's Service Charter and implementing other mechanisms to obtain feedback about regulatory activities.
2. Efficiently and effectively manage and respond to complaints and non-compliance.
3. Maintain a high performing, focused and sustainable organisation.
4. Continuously improve systems, resources, intelligence and processes as recommended by the Expert Panel to support efficient and effective delivery of regulatory services.

- **Stakeholder consultation and engagement**

I expect the ARBV to engage with peak bodies, industry, and community to drive improved compliance by architects and design practitioners with current regulatory settings and alignment with best practice.

Specifically, I expect the ARBV to:

1. Maintain effective working relationships with government, co-regulators, educational institutions, and stakeholders to optimise regulatory outcomes. For example, continue working with government and other agencies to improve data-sharing and outcomes such as providing input into the development of a centralised building data repository, prescribed building documentation and scopes of work for architects and design practitioners.
2. Provide information and guidance to the public about the obligations of architects and the consumer protections available.
3. Improve architects' compliance by targeted regulatory activities and education to support behavioural change and encourage voluntary compliance.
4. Undertake proactive communications, education, and engagement with registered and future architects about the importance and value of registration.
5. Work with the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia to strengthen the focus on the National Construction Code in the National Standard Competency for Architects.
6. Communicate the importance of fulfilling Continuing Professional Development obligations to ensure architects are knowledgeable in critical areas and are staying up to date with key developments and current regulatory settings thereby

contributing to a safe and compliant built environment for the benefit of the community.

I request that the ARBV incorporates these expectations into its business plans and includes milestones for when those expectations will be met. ARBV business plans should also include appropriate milestones to review the content of this letter and to advise me when it needs to be updated or renewed.

I further request that the ARBV, in conjunction with DTP, undertakes a light touch review of the expectations in this letter as part of its annual reporting obligations and to advise me if there are any refinements the ARBV would recommend.

Yours sincerely



The Hon Sonya Kilkeny MP

Minister for Planning

Minister responsible for the Architects Registration Board of Victoria

3/7/23