



National Construction Code – Fire Safety

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Status Quo

- The provisions of the Building Code of Australia, as part of the National Construction Code, promote very high levels of fire safety
- They are deemed to be the minimum necessary and proportionate to the subject
- Fundamentals of the NCC remain fire and structural safety
- Constantly under review, as per good regulatory practice, because knowledge of fire behaviour and building technology/methods constantly change



Past Examples

- Holistic review of fire safety following 2014 coronial inquest into Bankstown 2012 apartment fire
- 2016 meeting of all building regulators and fire services
- Smoke alarms research
- FPAA/AFAC mandatory sprinklers for Class 2 and 3 above three storeys
- Bushfire standards AS 3959 reviewed and updated, and ABCB standard for non-residential buildings Class 9

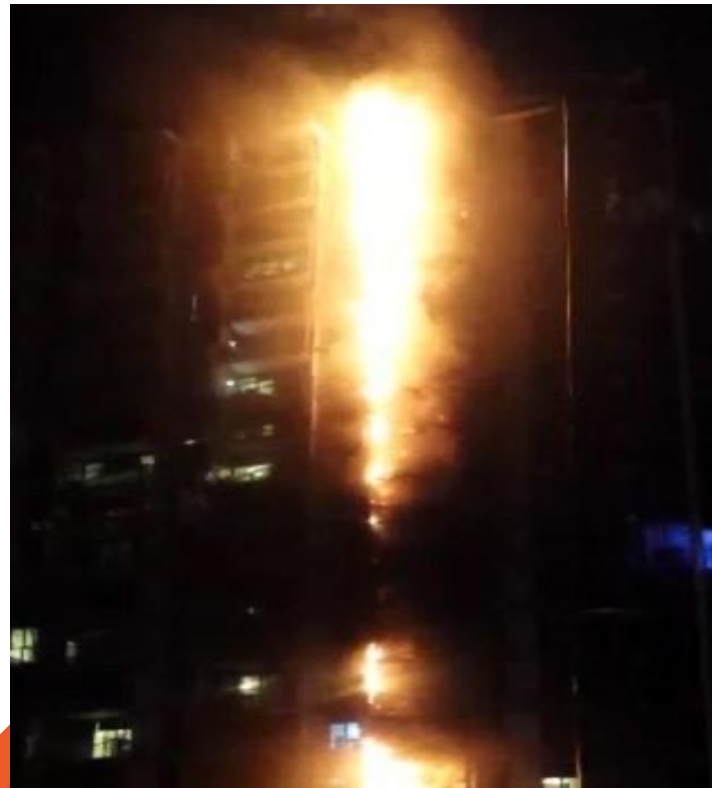


Access – Awareness – Understanding

- 2016 Building Regulatory Reform Agenda for progressive and transformational change to delivering the NCC:
 - Improve practitioner knowledge and building outcomes
 - Free NCC online and 3-year amendment cycle
 - Digitisation of NCC with new information architecture
 - Useability and readability
 - Education and support materials
 - Quantification and strategic review of performance requirements
 - Review of acceptable construction practices Volume One

Post Lacrosse

- 2018 out-of-cycle amendment
 - Evidence of suitability provisions and product assurance handbook
 - AS 5113
 - Review of NCC concessions
- Analysis of mandatory product certification scheme
- National Advisory Note
- Timber framing concession clarification
- Fire Safety Verification Method
- Warren Centre



Post Grenfell

- BCR Implementation Framework:
 - PBDB 2020 out-of-cycle amendment
 - Expanded registration and training
 - Better design, construction and certification processes
 - Integrated fire safety
 - Improved building surveyor integrity
 - Stronger regulatory oversight
 - Better information sharing
 - Improved technical regulation
- States and Territories to determine implementation



Recent Examples

- Fire safety quantification
- Mass timber construction DTS
- Complex buildings and building risk classification
- Childcare centres and primary schools in high rise buildings
- External building envelopes
- Acceptable Construction Practices review - fire protection for separating walls and floors, and fire separation of external walls
- Modular construction
- Australian Fire Engineering Guidelines

The Role of Industry



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