



Building Newsflash

PUBLIC BENEFIT TEST– EXISTING RESIDENTIAL CARE BUILDINGS

Purpose

The purpose of this Newsflash is to advise residential care industry stakeholders of the next phase of the Public Benefit Test (PBT) process.

Background

Building Newsflash 268 advised the Departments of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation (DLGPSR) and Emergency Services are considering a fire safety improvement strategy for Queensland's existing residential care buildings. The improvement strategy is the next phase of a fire safety investigation program which began following the Childers' backpacker fire in June 2000.

Public Benefit Test (PBT)

To inform the improvement strategy, a PBT is being undertaken to assess the impacts, benefit and costs of an education program or potential regulatory options for the residential care industry. The PBT was advertised in *The Courier Mail* and regional newspapers on 19 May 2007.

A PBT discussion paper for the Residential Care Improvement Strategy has been prepared for community consultation. The purpose of the discussion paper is to seek feedback on a range of possible improvement options.

The discussion paper for the Residential Care Improvement Strategy can be downloaded from the DLGPSR website www.lgp.qld.gov.au/?id=2521. Alternatively, stakeholders may request a copy of the discussion paper by emailing buildingcodes@dlgp.qld.gov.au or by contacting DLGPSR on 1800 682 021.

Stakeholders may respond to the PBT discussion paper by participating in upcoming workshops, conducted by an external consultant, or by lodging a written submission. To register for the following workshops, please contact DLGPSR on 1800 682 021 by **17 August 2007**.

- Brisbane (Bardon Conference Centre, 390 Simpsons Road, Bardon, 6 September 2007, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm, light refreshments will be available from 9.00 am)
- Cairns (The Oasis Resort, 122 Lake Street, Cairns, 13 September 2007, 12.30 pm – 3.30 pm, a light lunch will be available from 12.00 pm)
- Rockhampton (Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Rockhampton Conference Centre, Cnr Yeppoon Road and Bruce Highway, Rockhampton, 10 September 2007, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm, light refreshments will be available from 9.00 am)
- Toowoomba (Toowoomba Motel and Events Centre, Lords Function Room, 2 Burnage Street, Toowoomba, 7 September 2007, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm, light refreshments will be available from 9.00 am) and

- Townsville (The Summit Hotel, 6-8 Victoria Street, Townsville, 12 September 2007, 12.30 pm - 3.30 pm, a light lunch will be available from 12.00 pm).

If you are unable to attend the workshops, written submissions may be sent to:

Ms Mariella McTavish,
Building Fire Safety
Building Codes Queensland
PO Box 15031
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Submissions must be lodged with DLGPSR by **14 September 2007**, and will be forwarded to the external consultant for inclusion in the PBT review.

Contact Officer

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Building Codes Queensland
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Email: buildingcodes@dlgp.qld.gov.au

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