



Taituarā

Local Government Professionals Aotearoa

Submission to the Commerce Commission on its Draft Report - Residential building supplies market study

What is Taituarā?

Taituarā is an incorporated society of nearly 1000 members drawn from local government Chief Executives, senior managers, and council staff with significant policy or operational responsibilities. We are an apolitical organisation. Our contribution lies in our wealth of knowledge of the local government sector and of the technical, practical, and managerial implications of legislation.

Our vision is:

Professional local government management, leading staff and enabling communities to shape their future.

Our primary role is to help local authorities perform their roles and responsibilities as effectively and efficiently as possible. We have an interest in all aspects of the management of local authorities to the planning and delivery of services.

We have recently submitted to MBIE on the Review of the Building Consent System and note there are various areas of overlap between that review and ComCom's draft report and recommendations.

We therefore wish to emphasise **our support for:**

- The creation of efficient processes and pathways for products to become accepted for use, including certification, Acceptable Solutions, Verification Methods, standards and CodeMark rules as outlined in the report's recommendations.
- Exploring ways to remove impediments to product substitution and the need for consent variations for minor changes to building design that do not place responsibility and liability on BCAs.

- The development of a National Product Register – BCAs are not product certifiers.
- MBIE playing a greater role in education and the dissemination of information to the industry and BCAs.

We consider these enhancements would improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the building system and would meet the Commission's own competition goals.

Rather than repeat our evidence, our submission on the Building Consent Review can be viewed at: <https://taituara.org.nz/advocacy-and-research>.

We look forward to the final report and recommendations.