

11 November 2019

Hon Richard Wynne MP
Minister for Planning
8 Nicholson Street
EAST MELBOURNE 3008

Dear Minister

Statement of expectations 2019-2021 and addendum

Thank you for your letter of 17 August 2019 providing your Statement of Expectations (SOE) to the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) for the period 17 August 2019 to 30 June 2021. We also acknowledge receipt of an addendum dated 25 August 2019, which outlines your expectations for the cladding rectification program announced by the Victorian Government on 16 July 2019, and for Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) as a business unit of the VBA.

Both the SOE and addendum are published on the VBA's website.

The VBA is committed to focussing its regulatory efforts on protecting the Victorian community and supporting a thriving building industry. This commitment extends to acting decisively in the public interest to suspend immediately practitioners whom we reasonably believe are putting the health and safety of building occupants at risk, while continuing to drive higher professionalism and competence of building and plumbing practitioners operating across the State. To this end, the VBA continues to improve its risk-based regulatory practice to achieve the performance improvements and targets set out in your SOE.

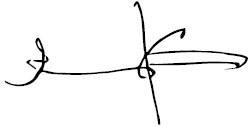
The VBA is confident we are on the right path to restoring confidence in the building system and the established built environment. Our focus is on outcomes for building owners and occupants, notably with regard to safety and durability. We acknowledge there is much more work to do and that this will be a team effort. Collaborating on future regulatory reforms, implementing and embedding these reforms, embracing and implementing the digital transformation of systems and processes, and balancing fiscal pressures with resourcing needs will underpin our individual and collective progress.

The addendum to the SOE sets out challenging expectations that we will strive to meet, including through careful collaboration between the VBA and CSV. The VBA Board and management are supporting the establishment of CSV to the full extent possible, and CSV and the VBA are coordinating their activities to maximise the alignment of processes to inform and deliver the rectification program. We are also giving priority to CSV's preparedness to operate independently.

The VBA Board will continue to work closely with the VBA executive to monitor progress against expectations. The VBA will provide baseline levels for SOE performance targets and report on the results of its activities and progress in meeting these targets and performance improvements in its Annual Report. The CSV will likewise report regularly on its performance on the delivery of the cladding rectification program.

We look forward to contributing to the Government's review of building legislation and implementing its outcomes to deliver buildings that are safe and well-built, as well as a stronger building industry in which reputable practitioners thrive.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Owen Donald', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Owen Donald
Chief Commissioner
Victorian Building Authority