



The Australian Building and Construction Commission Information Publication Scheme – Agency Plan

Version 8.0, 1 July 2020

The Australian Building and Construction Commission (**ABCC**) is an independent statutory agency that promotes understanding of, and enforces compliance with, Australia’s workplace laws in the building and construction industry.

Introduction

The [Freedom of Information Act 1982 \(Cth\)](#) (**FOI Act**)¹ prescribes requirements for Commonwealth agencies under the ‘Information Publication Scheme’ (**IPS**). The ABCC is subject to those requirements.

Purpose

The purpose of this Agency Plan is to set out how the ABCC will implement and administer the IPS as required under subsection 8(1) of the FOI Act. It identifies:

- The ABCC’s goals under the IPS;
- The information that the ABCC proposes to publish under the IPS;
- How, and to whom, the ABCC proposes to publish that information; and
- Other steps that the ABCC proposes to take to comply with IPS requirements.

Agency Goals

The ABCC’s goals are to:

- identify and publish all information required to be published under the IPS (see subsection 8(2) of the FOI Act);
- decide whether to publish any other information under the IPS (see subsection 8(4) of the FOI Act);
- ensure that information published under the IPS is accurate, up-to-date and complete (see subsection 8B of the FOI Act);
- ensure that information published under the IPS is easily accessible (discoverable, understandable, machine-readable, re-useable and transformable); and
- ensure compliance with other legislative requirements including in the FOI Act and other relevant laws such as the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)* (**Privacy Act**).

¹ Relevant Commonwealth legislation is referenced in this Agency Plan. Commonwealth legislations are available on the website of the Federal Register of Legislation (www.legislation.gov.au).

The ABCC seeks to contribute to the goals of the IPS requirements to promote and facilitate public access to information promptly and at the lowest reasonable cost.

Administering the IPS

Resources and officers

ABCC staff, including the FOI Officer, are tasked with administering the ABCC's publication of information under the IPS.

Administering information published under the IPS

Guided by the FOI Act, the ABCC facilitates access to relevant information on the ABCC website.

In identifying relevant information, ABCC takes into account the following considerations (in addition to the requirements set out in subsection 8(2) of the FOI Act):

- The functions and duties of the ABCC under the [Building and Construction \(Improving Productivity\) Act 2016 \(BCIIP Act\)](#), including promoting compliance with the [BCIIP Act](#), designated building laws, and the [Code for the Tendering and Performance of Building Work 2016 \(Building Code 2016\)](#) by building industry participants;
- Whether building industry participants and the community would expect to know and/or like to have access to the information;
- Whether the information is important for building industry participants and the community including whether it helps them resolve issues or to work in partnership with government effectively;
- Whether publication of the information would promote greater accountability including by better demonstrating the basis of decisions made by the ABCC; and
- Whether publication of the information is compatible with the obligations of the ABCC under relevant laws including the BCIIP Act and the Privacy Act.

All information that is published on the ABCC website conforms to relevant WCAG standards regarding accessibility and is available for download free of charge.

ABCC approach to accessibility

To ensure that information published under the IPS is easily discoverable, understandable and machine-readable, the ABCC:

- Publishes online content in a format that can be accessed through a website search function, copied and transformed (wherever possible);
- Outlines efforts to meet requirements of the [Disability Discrimination Act 1992 \(Cth\)](#) and the Australian Government's [Web Accessibility National Transition Strategy](#) through the [ABCC Web Accessibility Action Plan](#) published on its website.
- Provides an accessible sitemap on its website to help individuals identify the location of information published under subsections 8(2) and (4) of the FOI Act;
- Enables feedback on its website where information is not available in an accessible format or is not easily discoverable, understandable and machine-readable; and



- Makes its IPS information holdings available for reuse on open licensing terms, wherever possible.

Documents listed on the IPS section of the ABCC website are predominantly in *HTML* format to meet accessibility requirements. However, exceptions apply to:

- Portable Document Format (**PDF**) files, which contain images of scanned documents;
- Documents that are out-of-date, but provide historical reference (which are supplied in the format in which they are currently available); and
- Charts, tables and forms (which can be supplied in an accessible format on request).

Where possible, documents covered by these exceptions will be published in two alternative formats.

The ABCC will continue to engage with the community about the IPS. The FOI Officer can be contacted through the ABCC website to provide comments on information published under the IPS, particularly where it is not easily discoverable, understandable and/or machine-readable.

Information required to be published under the IPS

Information required to be published under the IPS (as set out in subsection 8(2) of the FOI Act) is available from the IPS section of the ABCC website: <https://www.abcc.gov.au/about/access-information/freedom-information/information-publication-scheme>.

Published information is available under the following headings:

ABCC Agency Plan

The Agency Plan is accessible for download.

ABCC as an agency

A description provides an overview of the ABCC's regulatory role in the building and construction industry. Further information about the ABCC's functional areas and statutory appointments is also provided.

The website provides information regarding [ABCC statutory appointees](#), including the name of the person appointed, the length or term of appointment, the position to which the person is appointed (and particulars of the position), and relevant statutory provision relating to delegation.

Information [about the ABCC](#) outlines the agency's functions and powers in promoting understanding of, and enforcing compliance with, Australia's workplace laws in the building and construction industry.

The ABCC publishes fact sheets, guidelines and other information relating to these functions and powers, including information to assist building industry participants.

Reports to Parliament

The ABCC website makes available (in full text) copies the agency's [Annual Reports](#) and [Quarterly Reports](#) that have been tabled in Parliament.

The ABCC also provides reports pursuant to Senate Orders regarding [Contracts](#) and [File Listing](#). The website also provides an accessible link to agency [Portfolio Budget Statements](#).



Routinely requested information and disclosure log

The ABCC identifies, and publishes information regarding, documents to which the ABCC gives access in response to requests under Part III of the FOI Act in its [Disclosure Log](#) unless excepted under s 11C of the FOI Act. The Disclosure Log is accessible on the ABCC website.

Other information

The ABCC may publish other information after weighing the considerations set out above.

Contact us for more information

The following contact details for the ABCC FOI Officer, who can be contacted about access to the ABCC's information or documents, are provided on the website:

- An email address (foi@abcc.gov.au); and
- The ABCC's telephone Hotline (**1800 003 338**).

The [ABCC's online enquiry form](#) is also available on the ABCC's website to seek assistance including with accessibility related issues.

IPS compliance review

The ABCC will review this Agency Plan at least annually, and may also review and make additional changes to this Agency Plan from time to time.

The ABCC will review the operation of its IPS consistent with the FOI Act and relevant guidelines issued by the Information Commissioner.

