

Building Regulation News Updates are issued as and when necessary, to keep the Tasmanian Building Industry informed of developments occurring in the industry, Building Code of Australia (BCA) and its referenced documents and legislation.

### Purpose

This *News Update* is to inform building practitioners, councils, permit authorities, and building owners of changes to administrative arrangements, the BCA and building legislation.

### New Minister

Following the recent appointments to Cabinet on 5 April 2006, the Premier Mr Lennon announced that the Hon Steven Kons MHA had been appointed as Minister for Justice and Workplace Relations. Mr Kons will also hold the portfolio of Attorney-General and Minister for Planning.



Steven Kons

[Attorney-General](#),  
[Minister for Justice and Workplace Relations](#),  
and [Minister for Planning](#)

### Workplace Standards Tasmania to move to Justice Department

At the same time the Premier announced some restructuring of the State Service. Workplace Standards Tasmania will move from the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resource to become part of the Department of Justice.

As a section of Workplace Standards Tasmania, Building Standards and Regulation will also become part of the Department of Justice.

### New Acting General Manager of Workplace Standards Tasmania (WST)

Mr Peter Hoult, Secretary of the Department of Justice, has appointed Mr Roy Ormerod, as Acting General Manager of Workplace Standards Tasmania. This appointment was effective from Monday 10 April 2006 until a substantive appointment is announced. Mr Hoult advised:

*“Given Roy's management experience and excellent knowledge of the Department's administrative arrangements and senior staff, I believe this appointment will assist WST to smoothly integrate with the Department of Justice. Murray Gordon will act in Roy's position as Director, Office of Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Robert Pearce who has been Acting General Manager at WST for several months”*

Robert Pearce will continue in his role as Director of Policy Planning and Services and Director of Building Control, a statutory position under the *Building Act 2000*.

## BCA 2006

The BCA 2006 comes into force on 1 May 2006. The BCA is now amended annually in May. The changes are specified in the List of Amendments in the back of each Volume. Refer to the transitional provisions (s.55) in the *Building Act 2000* for application to new design proposals.

### Temporary Occupancy Permits for public events – proposed changes.

- The *Building Amendment Regulations 2006* were gazetted on 22 March 2006. This statutory rule amends regulation 38 of the Building Regulations 2004 to exempt tents or other temporary structures, or buildings, from the requirement for a temporary occupancy permit, if their use poses a low risk to public safety.
- Building Standards and Regulation have commenced consultation with public event organisers, local government officers and private building surveyors to draft the Director's Determination under regulation 38 of the amended *Building Regulations 2004*, that will define the scope of the exempt classes and types of temporary structures and buildings.
- The Director's Determination on Temporary Occupancy Permits under regulation 38 will be made available as soon as practicable. Stakeholders will be advised when it will be available and when posted on the Workplace Standards Tasmania website.

### Guideline on Principles of Safe Design for Work

A Guideline on Principles of Safe Design for Work has been developed by the Australian Safety and Compensation Council (ASCC) to support the National OHS Strategy priority – to eliminate hazards at the design stage. The document aims to raise awareness of the importance of safe design and how it can be achieved and is not intended to be adopted in OHS legislation. It provides guidance and information to persons who are directly or indirectly involved with the design or modification of products, buildings, structures and processes used for work.

The ASCC agreed to publish the Guideline on its website [www.ascc.gov.au](http://www.ascc.gov.au). A series of "information sheets" will also be developed to provide practical examples of safe design.

The Council is a partnership of governments, employer associations and unions established to lead and coordinate national efforts to prevent workplace death, injury and disease; to improve workers' compensation arrangements, and the rehabilitation and return to work of injured employees. There were a wide range of design issues evident in the fatal incidents, but there were also some features common to a number of incidents. The most common building-related scenarios involved:

- inadequate guarding
- lack of residual current devices
- inadequate fall protection

The analysis has shown that:

- similar design problems are involved in many fatal incidents
- design is an important contributor to fatal injury in many industries, and
- Well-known solutions exist for virtually all the design problems underlying the fatal events considered in the analysis.

### Further information

- For further information contact the Workplace Standards Tasmania Helpline 1300 366 322.

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