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**BUILDING CODE TECHNICAL RISK ADVISORY GROUP (BCTRAG)**  
**05 MARCH 2019 MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

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**APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

<b>BCTRAG members</b>	<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Representing</b>
	Lynda Armitrano	BRANZ	Paul O'Brien	NZ Construction Industry Council
	Jayson Ellis	Building Officials Institute NZ	Tony Fairclough	NZ Geotechnical Society
	Helen Davidson	Engineering NZ	Bruce Curtain	NZ Institute of Architects
	Tania Williams	Engineering NZ	David Whittaker	NZ Society for Earthquake Engineering
	James Firestone	Fire & Emergency NZ	Martin Feeney	Society for Fire Protection Engineering
	Matt Gerstenberger	GNS Science	Paul Campbell	Structural Engineering Society
	David Robson	MBIE	Mike Kerr	MBIE ( <i>Chair</i> )
	Helen McGregor	MBIE	Katrina Quickenden	MBIE - (partial attendance)
	Richard London	MBIE		
<b>Apologies</b>	Jenni Tipler	MBIE		

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**ENDORSEMENT OF THE FUNCTION OF THE GROUP AND DEFINITION OF  
TECHNICAL RISK**

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After a welcome by the Chair the BCTRAG endorsed the function of the group and the definition of technical risk that was communicated after the November 2018 meeting.

The group agreed to focus on long term strategic issues but can discuss immediate wins where there is a critical immediate sector impact.

The BCTRAG Membership recommended some changes for future meetings that will be considered including:

- The provision of the slides with meeting minutes.
- Implementation of a feedback loop to show the impact of the advice provided by the BCTRAG.
- Include a business update an overview on the MBIE priority projects so the group are aware of their scope and scale.
- Communicate the risk submission sheets with risk summary prior to the meeting
- Consider BCA representation at the BCTRAG meetings.

The membership also discussed how to group the risks to allow efficient discussions.




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## BUSINESS UPDATE

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Dave Robson presented an update on the top business priorities including:

- An Building Code operating model will be drafted in 2019
- A 10 year strategic plan for the Building code will be drafted as soon as time allows including plans around digitization, the smarter pathways project, evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of the Building Code and ensuring it remains fit for purpose.

Dave also commented that, as needed, MBIE reach out for insight to the other 18 members of the IRCC (Inter-jurisdictional Regulatory Collaboration Committee) for their insights. The IRCC are 18 member countries which use performance based Building Codes.

The membership asked if structural reform of the Building Code will be part of the 10 Year strategy and it was confirmed this is not intended to be part of the plan at the present time.

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## BUILDING SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE REFORM PROGRAMME

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Katrina Quickenden presented an update on the Building System Legislative Reform Programme including its components, timelines and some proposed solutions and implementation timelines that will be included in the upcoming public consultation.

The membership discussed with Katrina the scope of the work and how best to provide feedback. They commented a 6 week consultation timeline may not be sufficient (12 weeks was suggested) and Katrina Quickenden noted she would take that feedback to BSP management and commented that it would be preferable to receive consolidated submissions from industry groups.

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## RISK SUBMISSION DISCUSSIONS

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Risk Identified	Conversation	Insights for MBIE
Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT)	<p>BCTRAG group discussed a number of issues around the use and reliability of CLT. Specifically it was noted that the risk of delamination in a fire was highly dependent on the method and size of lamination.</p> <p>It was generally agreed that this was a matter for industry to manage and that product testing is just part of normal business.</p> <p>It was commented that all new products entering the market need to be tested or 'do</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry commentary may reflect a market position rather than a reason to regulate.</li> <li>• Ensuring the health of CodeMark is important to industry as an option for establishing product compliance.</li> <li>• More education and industry awareness is required of available tests</li> </ul>



Risk Identified	Conversation	Insights for MBIE
	<p>their time' to show they met the Building Code.</p> <p>It was noted that CodeMark was an option as a national approval scheme for products.</p>	<p>and compliance pathways to support the use of innovative products.</p>
<p>Buckle Restraint Bracing (BRB)</p>	<p>This bracing technology has been in use for many years in the United States and has been tested extensively overseas.</p> <p>This design feature is becoming more popular in NZ but needs to be 'road tested' before being brought into the Building Code.</p> <p>Additional education and industry practice notes would standardise the way these features are incorporated and give guidance for suppliers regarding performance specifications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovative solutions need to be 'road tested'</li> <li>• A transition framework from one off alternative solution to nationally approved solution is currently missing</li> <li>• Industry need to review BRB calculation methods and potentially this should be in the steel Standard</li> <li>• More education and industry awareness</li> </ul>
<p>Raised Access Floors (RAF)</p>	<p>RAF's were recognised as a potentially missed in the assessment of non-structural elements in a building.</p> <p>Additional education and training regarding the design of RAFs would support suppliers and industry to bridge any 'code deficiencies'.</p> <p>It was considered that RAF's were not widespread and that there were already options to brace these installations but that there were insufficient bracing element calculations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider if any potential gaps in the Building Code for secondary structural elements require additional central regulation</li> <li>• More education and industry awareness</li> </ul>
<p>AS/NZS 1170</p>	<p>A robust discussion was had regarding the importance of 1170 as a key document for engineers.</p> <p>There was agreement that it made sense to move the regulatory aspects of compliance out of 1170 into Acceptable Solutions and /or Verification Documents.</p> <p>The group conveyed concern over the timeliness and adoption of new research into the Standard.</p> <p>A discussion regarding how new research is validated before adoption, resolved that</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider if the importance of the Standard means the content needs to be directly brought into a Verification Method or other directly controlled MBIE document</li> <li>• Take a wider look at the role of Standards in the Building Code and how Standards affect the implementation of policy and performance settings</li> <li>• Clarify the role of</li> </ul>



Risk Identified	Conversation	Insights for MBIE
	<p>MBIE ultimately had to ensure the setting is an appropriate minimum for New Zealand.</p> <p>The role of Standards committees and that of MBIE in setting policy was discussed. The 'Building Code Triangle' (see appendix A) was introduced to illustrate the hierarchy of compliance documents in the Building Code and the elevated status given to documents cited in the Acceptable Solutions and Verification Methods.</p> <p>The group considered if introducing standing committees would manage the timeliness risk better, but noted that philosophically committees have the potential to be captured by vested interest over societal interest.</p> <p>The group discussed the need for strategic public consultation rather than ad-hoc and noted a limited pool of resources to conduct the updates and finite resourcing of Standards NZ.</p>	<p>Standards Committees in relation to performance settings in the Building Code</p>
Post-event Business Continuity Planning, functionality, damage control, and building reparability.	Not discussed due to time constraints	
Data is not being collected regarding performance to allow compliance assessments	Not discussed due to time constraints	



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## OTHER COMMENTS

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Other comments, echoed by multiple members, throughout the day included:

- There should be a shift to consider a “whole of building life approach” to the risks and advice including estimating the costs and benefits of how recommendations are realised over the whole of life (i.e. environmental / climate impacts).
- Other consideration are regarding system impacts for:
  - Carbon Footprint monitoring
  - Capital expenditure
  - Capital outlay compared to the whole of life operational / maintenance

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## ACTION ITEMS

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The secretariat will:

- Distribute:
  - ✓ Minutes from this meeting including the meeting presentation
  - ✓ A diagram showing the building code triangle (see Appendix below)

**The Chair thanked all members and closed the meeting at 2.30pm**

### Next Meeting

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 5 June	<b>Time:</b>	9.30 am – 2.30 pm
<b>Venue:</b>	MBIE, 15 Stout Street, Wellington		



**Appendix A: The Building Code Triangle.**

