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MEDIA RELEASE

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Abolition of the ABCC will Promote Building Industry Chaos

The passage of a Bill through the House of Representatives today that will see the Australian Building & Construction Commission (ABCC) abolished is a blow to the building and construction industry says the Housing Industry Association (HIA), the voice of the residential building industry.

“The government states that it supports a strong cop on the beat, but these laws promote anything but that,” said HIA industrial relations spokesman David Humphrey.

Mr Humphrey stated that HIA is further concerned at the government’s 11th hour amendments to the Bill today that demands the new Building Inspectorate drop proceedings against a party where the accused has reached a ‘settlement’ with the party that it is alleged to have committed an offence against.

“Where it is alleged that illegal activity has occurred and is being pursued by the authorities, this amendment requires the watchdog to drop the case where the two parties agree it should.”

“This is extraordinary, especially when you consider that many of the actual offences that are being committed on building sites involve some kind of intimidation or coercion.”

“We are not talking about the regulator being asked to keep out of the day to day cut and thrust of industrial negotiations once the two parties reach a compromise – this is about being forced to drop proceedings that potentially involve industrial illegality, further threatening the rule of law in the industry.”

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