Council engagement sessions

The Building Professionals Board appreciates the opportunity to meet with council representatives to discuss:

- requirements for accreditation of existing council certifiers from 1 March 2013
- requirements for accreditation of new council certifiers from 1 March 2013
- expanding continuous professional development (CPD)
- increasing the supply of accredited certifiers.

The sessions will consider how we can work together to improve the certification system in areas such as education, training, CPD and the long-term supply of accredited certifiers.

The outcomes will inform the Board’s strategies to:

- support the commencement of Accreditation Scheme provisions that will require all persons applying for accreditation to satisfy the same qualifications, skills, knowledge and experience criteria from 1 March 2013
- develop continuing professional development models to best meet the needs of all NSW councils
- increase the supply of accredited certifiers.

Focus for discussion

Requirements for accreditation of existing council certifiers from 1 March 2013

Provided they renew their certificate of accreditation each year, council accredited certifiers accredited before 1 March 2013 can continue to work under their certificate of accreditation, subject to the prescribed condition that they only carry out certification work on behalf of council. There will be no requirement to undertake further training or qualifications to operate at the same level of accreditation within a council.

Requirements for accreditation of new and upgrading council certifiers from 1 March 2013

All new applicants for accreditation and existing accredited certifiers seeking to upgrade their category of accreditation from 1 March 2013 will be required to:

- satisfy the core performance criteria under the Board’s Accreditation Scheme by successfully completing the University of Technology Sydney Certification Short Course or passing the Board’s accreditation exam
- satisfy the same experience requirements as private sector accredited certifiers under the Board’s Accreditation Scheme
- obtain a qualification listed in Part 2 of Schedule 3 of the Accreditation Scheme.

Also, the Diploma of Local Government (Environmental Health and Building Assessment) from the Local Government Training Institute (LGTI) and TAFE NSW will no longer be recognised for Category A3 and for applicants applying under the student pathway for Category A4 who enrol after 1 March 2013. Any person who has completed the qualification above will be able to apply for the Category A4 only.
Expanding continuous professional development (CPD)
The Board will support council transition and implementation arrangements for CPD to help align council accreditation and private accreditation CPD requirements. Mechanisms include amending the Accreditation Scheme to recognise a greater number of CPD providers and developing the most effective CPD delivery models for council accredited certifiers.

Increasing the supply of accredited certifiers
The Board wishes to discuss strategies such as:
- encouraging more traineeships
- retaining certifiers who are approaching retirement in a part-time capacity
- fostering an interest in building surveying from those who are ready to enter the profession or who are in a related field, and encourage them to undertake a qualification or top up their knowledge and skills
- developing alternative ways for council accredited certifiers to gain experience recognised under the Accreditation Scheme.