

25 May 2021

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)  
15 Stout Street  
Wellington 6011

By email: [buildingfeedback@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:buildingfeedback@mbie.govt.nz)

## **DCC SUBMISSION ON BUILDING CODE UPDATE 2021 PROPOSALS**

### **Introduction**

1. The Dunedin City Council (DCC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) on the Building Code update proposals.

### **Submission**

2. The DCC supports the Government's aim to make buildings warmer, drier, healthier and more energy efficient. Not only will the proposed changes benefit residents' health and comfort in Dunedin's colder climate, the changes will also support and give effect to the priorities of the Building for Climate Change (BfCC) programme.
3. As part of its commitment to make buildings warmer, drier, healthier and more energy efficient, the DCC is upgrading insulation across the 950 units that make up the DCC's social housing portfolio. In addition, as a medium-growth city, the DCC is ensuring that new buildings are aligned with the city's low carbon ambitions. New social housing units are being built to passive house principles, and a focus on minimising emissions is being built into planning and design for all new DCC building projects.
4. The DCC is also working in partnership with other major Dunedin institutions to displace use of LPG and coal for heating in major CBD buildings and facilities.
5. With regard to the proposed changes coming into effect, the DCC notes that the insulation materials required may be affected by current building materials shortages. The DCC also anticipates building consent authority officers will require additional training if the proposed changes are implemented; government support would be welcomed to deliver appropriate and timely training for all sectors of the construction industry.
6. The DCC has not responded to every proposal in the consultation document as some proposals are not applicable to the DCC.

## Conclusion

7. The DCC supports the Government's aim to make buildings warmer, drier, healthier and more energy efficient. Warmer, drier homes will bring health benefits for our residents, especially for the young, the elderly and those with respiratory illness. The DCC recognises that the proposed updates to the Building Code support the continued efforts to shift towards a carbon neutral economy by 2050.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Hawkins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Aaron Hawkins  
**MAYOR OF DUNEDIN**