

# Media Release

10 July 2018

## Australia set for return to “Soviet-style buildings”, peak bodies warn

Three peak bodies representing the lighting industry warn that Australian design is going to regress to an ugly emphasis on function over form.

The changes relate to proposals under the revised draft of the *National Construction Code* which regulates the construction and redevelopment of commercial buildings.

Under the new proposal, the vast majority of previously-allowable decorative lighting will be subject to additional compliance requirements.

“Decorative lighting refers to much of the lighting that makes buildings’ exteriors and interiors attractive, interesting, warm and inviting”, explains Lighting Council Australia Technical Manager, David Crossley.

“These changes in practice mean that much of the decorative lighting that gives character to buildings, like hotel foyers, shopping centre displays and car showrooms may simply disappear from 2019 onwards. We expect that much of the design work will simply be put in the ‘too hard basket’. We can expect many more drab, Soviet-style buildings.”

“We’re looking at a \$400 million a year industry that creates over 2,500 jobs facing the chopping block as a result of this frankly outrageous policy”, says Mr Crossley in relation to the proposed restrictions which were only put to industry by Commonwealth bureaucrats at the tail-end of a two-year consultation period.

Mr Crossley explains that Lighting Council Australia—the peak body for manufacturers and suppliers of lighting equipment—is working closely with the peak bodies for the lighting engineering and lighting design sectors to oppose the changes.

“We’re calling on the responsible Ministers to intervene and prevent this disastrous proposal from being enacted.”

### Enquiries:

Roman Gowor, National Marketing and Environment Manager, Lighting Council Australia  
0478 945 100

# Media Release

## Examples of lighting projects affected

