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## South Australia Investigation and Review of the Construction Industry Training Fund Act 1993

Submission

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## Introduction

The National Fire Industry Association (NFIA) thanks the Construction Industry Training Board for the opportunity to comment on the Investigation and Review of the *Construction Industry Training Fund Act 1993*. The NFIA welcomes the initiative to improve the operation and governance of the CITB and whilst the NFIA largely agrees with the current operation of the CITB, our Association seeks representation of the Fire Protection Industry on the CITB Board and in the appropriate Sector Committee.

## **The National Fire Industry Association (NFIA)**

The National Fire Industry Association, Australia (NFIA) is an Australia-wide community of commercial fire protection contractors, their people, suppliers, and industry stakeholders representing a wide and varied membership from the smallest sub-contractor through to large Australia-wide construction and service businesses. Our Members work at the frontline of fire protection with an estimated 80 per cent of the fire protection work undertaken in Australia completed by Members of NFIA.

NFIA utilises the resources of other Australian and International industry organisations and associations.

NFIA is committed to the delivery of quality fire protection practitioners across all aspects of fire protection safety. To this end, NFIA has sponsored and supported the growth of the world leading fire industry Registered Training Organisation, Fire Industry Training (FiT), which now delivers fire industry required training for all of Australia at its campuses in Brisbane, Melbourne, and Sydney.

NFIA believes that an appropriate regulatory framework should be one that protects the safety of the community and property, provides adequate consumer protection, recognises, and accommodates industry practice and standards, requires registration of practitioners, and is linked to the national training package framework.



The NFIA agrees with this proposition, however, submits that whilst promoting diversity in Board appointments is important, it should not be preferred over expertise and skill.

**6. The appointment of Deputy Members should be reserved only for members appointed due to a specific skill set.**

The NFIA submits that Deputy Members are not required and full representation on a Board can occur in the event the Member is not available.

**7. The ability for the Presiding Member to exercise a casting vote should remain.**

The NFIA agrees with this proposition.

**8. The provision for a majority Board decision should remain.**

The NFIA agrees with this proposition.

**9. is to the Board and its objects under the Act.**

The NFIA agrees with this proposition.

**10. The Act should formalise a requirement to consult with Sector Committees during the preparation of the Training Plan.**

The NFIA agrees with this proposition, however, submits that we would like to see Fire Protection representation on the relevant sector committee.

**11. The appointment of an independent Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee should be facilitated by permitting the Minister to approve remuneration of the Chair of committees.**

The NFIA disagrees with this proposition and submits that current remuneration is already adequate for sitting Board members and additional diversion of available training funds should not be considered.

**12. that in the South Australian Skills Act 2008 to enable more integrated and complementary connections between the Board and Government.**

The NFIA disagrees with this proposition and submits that the Board should retain their independence.

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**19. Planning for allocation of the Fund should be revised to better utilise available funds for the Civil sector, including in relation to attraction and retention initiatives; and short courses which equip Civil sector workers to work in other sectors when there is a downturn in civil construction activity.**

The NFIA disagrees with this proposition and submits that training should be categorised by industry, not by sector.

**Is the current levy rate of 0.25 per cent of the estimated value of building or construction work (or such other percentage not exceeding 0.5 per cent of that value as may be prescribed in regulations) appropriate to meet the workforce needs of the sector?**

**20. In the absence of an alternative method of calculation than project value, the 0.25% levy remains as an appropriate rate for the Board to fulfil its role and functions under the A0.Cr 2012.0049**



**by that sector:**

**and construction industry?**

**ular areas of need such as upskilling,  
higher-level training, or cross-sector skilling?**

**26. A minimum of 60% of the CITB fund allocations to training activity should be allocated between each sector of the building and construction industry in**

The NFIA submits that the CITF Act could extend the Board's requirement to develop a training plan each year, to every three years, to allow the Board additional time for other key projects

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