



## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### BUILDING ACT 1972

#### EXEMPTION

NO. 165 OF 1992

#### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Instrument exempts ACT PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES, being a government agency, from the application of the provision of the Building Code specified in the Schedule in respect of the building works as part of the ACT Public Hospitals Redevelopment, Building 1, Woden Valley Hospital.

The hospital is being redeveloped and this involves the construction of significant new facilities together with substantial internal refurbishment and renovations to existing hospital buildings. The principal building affected by the upgrading process is Building 1.

The *ACT Building Act 1972* (as amended) requires ACT Government agencies to comply with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia. Government agencies may seek exemption from various sections or all of the Code via a Disallowable Instrument.

It is therefore desirable that all building work undertaken under the auspices of the ACT Public Hospitals Redevelopment Project be in accordance with the current Building Code of Australia, formal modifications to the Code, the allied ACT appendix, relevant Australian Standards, ACT legislation and the requirements of particular statutory authorities.

However, as a result of the constraints imposed by the existing building elements and necessary operational requirements, complete compliance with the Building Code of Australia is not possible. Complete compliance is not considered necessary for the building to perform within acceptable safety standards.

In order to professionally and cohesively determine what exemptions from the Building Code of Australia were appropriate and within acceptable levels of fire safety, Philip Chun and Associates were engaged by the Project Manager as consultants to examine the Final Sketch Plan Design for the new level 5 Paediatrics and new level two link between Building 1 and Buildings 10 and 11. The consultant's function was to recommend what works were necessary to ensure that fire safety requirements of the Building Code of Australia were met and/or Code objectives achieved and/or what exemptions from the Code were appropriate.

The consultant after assessing the problem has proposed two (2) modifications to the standards of the B.C.A. A report with supportive documentation has been examined by Public Works and Services, the ACT Fire Brigade, the ACT Building Controller and the Project Director with the ACT Public Hospitals Redevelopment Project.

A summary of these modifications and the particular clauses of the Building Code of Australia in question are as follows:

## **MODIFICATIONS TO THE BUILDING CODE REGULATIONS**

### **Item 1**

1. Clause C1.1(a) Type of Construction.

To permit the proposed additional link bridge between Building 1 and Buildings 10 and 11 to be constructed of unprotected steel in lieu of Type A fire-resisting construction.

### **Item 2**

2. Clause D1.6(b) Dimensions of Exits

To permit the width of a corridor in Paediatric isolation on level 5 of Building 1 in a patient care area to be less than two metres.