



18 January 2017

Guy Barnett, Minister for Building and Construction

New Building Design Standards Launched

The Hodgman Liberal Government's building reforms are encouraging development and helping to create jobs by ensuring that gaining approval to build in Tasmania is fairer, faster, simpler and cheaper.

Now, our nation-leading reforms will also encourage a greater emphasis in housing designs on considering the needs of people with disability.

Following on from the commencement on 1 January of the new Building Act, I am pleased today to launch the Minimum Design Standards Drawings and Universal Access Design Documents.

Adding to the detail provided in the Act, and providing more certainty and clarity, these documents form part of the Director of Building Control's Specified List.

The inclusion of Universal Access Design Documents under the standards adopted alongside the new Building Act is a great example of how our reforms will not only cut red tape, but also can help to improve the lives of Tasmanians.

Universal Access is a new concept that encourages developers, designers and builders to consider whether they can include design elements that provide for older Tasmanians and people with disability.

Homes are usually designed with the needs of the specific customers or the general market in mind, but the reality is that homes change hands over time and also the needs of people change.

With an ageing population, in particular, it may make good sense to provide for access for people with disability or mobility impairments in the design of new homes.

It is a good idea to consider this at the design stage, which is why we are promoting this type of design.

We always said that our building reforms will not compromise quality and safety, and, in fact, we believe they will assist in improving on the high standards we have come to expect from our building and construction industry.

Both the Building Act and these standards have been developed in close cooperation with the industry, and we thank such bodies as the Master Builders Association and the Housing Industry Association for their continuing good work.