



Building Newsflash

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CHILDERS FIRE SAFETY TASKFORCE

As a result of the fire in a Childers backpacker hostel on 23 June 2000, the Government established a high-level Taskforce to review the current fire safety laws for budget accommodation in Queensland. The Taskforce concluded there were inadequate fire safety standards to protect the lives of occupants in a significant number of hostels, boarding houses, hotels and other similar budget accommodation buildings.

The key recommendation of the Taskforce was minimum standards, consistent with contemporary standards for building fire safety, should be imposed to provide life safety protection in all existing budget accommodation.

An amendment of building fire safety regulations to improve fire safety is likely to impose appreciable costs on the community, and in particular operators and users of budget accommodation. Accordingly, under section 43 of the *Statutory Instruments Act 1992* a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared. It examines the cost of different upgrade and compliance options as well as the benefits and social implications of requiring existing budget accommodation buildings to be upgraded.

The Government has not made a decision on the level of fire safety to be imposed in budget accommodation or how these upgrades will be regulated. Feedback on the proposed options in the RIS will assist the Government to make an informed decision on how to improve fire safety in budget accommodation. Submissions are invited from all persons on the RIS.

Copies of the RIS can be downloaded from the Department's website www.dlgp.qld.gov.au or obtained from Mr Paul Ritchie telephone (07) 3898 0347.

Please contact Mr Paul Ritchie should you require any further information or wish to discuss any aspects of the RIS.