

## Australasian Concrete Repair & Remedial Building Association Newsletter

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### President's Message

ACRA Committees and members have been proactive in participating and planning future engagements with industry events hosted by ACRA and others. At a recent event we officially launched our new one day Remedial Waterproofing training which was sold out within a week. Attendees gave valuable feedback, and we are looking forward to the next scheduled training day later this month on 22 July in Western Sydney.

Announcing a new initiative to open Committee membership to members which has previously been exclusive for ACRA board members only. This is consistent with my goals since starting my journey as President, over the last 6 months including:

- improving governance, transparency & inclusivity
- ongoing development of member benefits
- acknowledge the past & present volunteers who have contributed to a thriving remedial industry association.

Karen Amery  
President  
1 July 2024

### Membership Update



As part of improving governance, over the past 2 months an extensive audit has been conducted on the ACRA membership register to ensure legislative compliance, and accuracy of contact information. I would like to express my appreciation and thanks for your patience with this activity. In some cases, duplication of registrations had occurred which resulted in multiple activity for some members.

I would ask any member who has not as yet responded to membership information verification please do so as soon as possible. I would also recommend that all members login to the ACRA portal [here](#) (Member Login) and ensure their information is correct. If you required assistance with this, please email [info@acrassoc.com.au](mailto:info@acrassoc.com.au).

The 2024 2025 financial year annual membership dues will be emailed towards the end of July. This will be for all current members as at the 30 June 2024 as verified by the audit activity. The email will contain both a PDF invoice attachment and an embedded link to the same. The method of payment is included on the invoice.

All new Individual memberships applications from July 1 will pay via the ACRA web portal on a pro rata base throughout the 2024 2025 financial year. All new Corporate membership applications will be issued an invoice once their application has been approved, again on a pro rata basis.

The membership dues are \$413 for an Individual member, and \$1,925 for corporate members.

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**Attention to Corporate Members – please distribute this newsletter to your team.**

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## Committee News – Calling for Expressions of Interest

### An open invitation to Members for expressions of interest to join one of our Committees.

Historically the Committees have been composed of only ACRA Board Directors. We want to broaden our representation and diversify our expertise on these Committees. Whether you are an aspiring Board member, future President perhaps, share your knowledge or want to expand your professional experience we are interested in your contribution.

Volunteer alongside our Board in the following Committees:

1. **Membership Committee:** Member benefits, new member recruitment & applications
2. **Promotions Committee:** Marketing & communications for members, asset owners and other stakeholders, bi-annual remedial industry awards for excellence
3. **Technical & Training Committee:** remedial training, education, technology & practices, local adoption of EN1504 as local Australian Standard, etc
4. **Advocacy Committee:** our newest addition, currently focused on NSW DBP Act and related regulations' impact on the remedial industry, currently considering advocacy priorities in other states and where our advocacy efforts can support the remedial industry.

If you are willing to spend two to four hours a month and have an enthusiasm to make a positive contribution to your association, we invite your expression of interest including CV by 15 July to [info@acrassoc.com.au](mailto:info@acrassoc.com.au)

Committee Members must agree to follow our Code of Ethics and be prepared to provide a Conflict of Interest declaration. Your privacy is important and applications will be reviewed by the Board and Committee leads.

## Industry Engagement

“Construction & Waterproofing in 2024” events by Construction Connect.

ACRA was invited to speak and participate in panel sessions at the recent Construction and Waterproofing in Sydney. We also had an ACRA trade display table and ACRA representatives on hand to answer questions on our new Remedial Waterproofing Training, sign new members up, engage with asset owners/manager and hear your feedback. The forum was sold out to over 300 attendees and presented a great networking opportunity for all. We welcomed several new members that day



SYDNEY – 14 June 2024 The day started with an update from Matt Press, seen here with some of our Advocacy Committee (Helen Kowal, Deborah Lockart & Tom Mackay). Our President Karen Amery gave updates on our two hour online remedial waterproofing training; launch of the new one day remedial waterproofing training; NSW remedial-government consultation; 2025 NCC response, upcoming events & membership.



Thank you, Chris Jakovljevic who represented the remedial builder perspective on the expert panel. Thanks to Brendan Walsh, Daniel Caruana & Tanaz Dhondy for working with the advocacy committee in responding to queries at our ACRA table.

### Upcoming industry engagement events:

#### Concrete Institute of Australia (CIA)

- 23 July – VIC Trade Exhibition, ACRA will have a display table. Tickets: ['What's New In Concrete?' Trade Exhibition \(Victoria\) - Concrete Institute of Australia](#)
- 25 July - NSW Industry Breakfast – Circular Economy. Keynote Speaker – Davina Rooney GBCA & ACRA President Karen Amery. ACRA members offered same discount as CIA members Tickets: [CIA NSW Industry Breakfast - Circular Economy - Concrete Institute of Australia](#)

## Construction & Waterproofing in 2024 & Beyond by Construction Connect

- [Melbourne – 9 August](#) Hear from Anna Cronin CEO of the Victorian Building Authority
- [Brisbane – 11 October](#) Hear from David Previte-Founder and Principal at Waterproofing Integrity

## ACRA Advocacy Committee Update

Advocacy and ACRA! How did we get here and what does advocacy look like?

The representative “one voice” for the remedial building industry. Based on our experience, advocacy relies on hard work, authenticity, a clear understanding of the issues and the regulatory space we operate. Teamwork is essential, along with a passion for the common good.

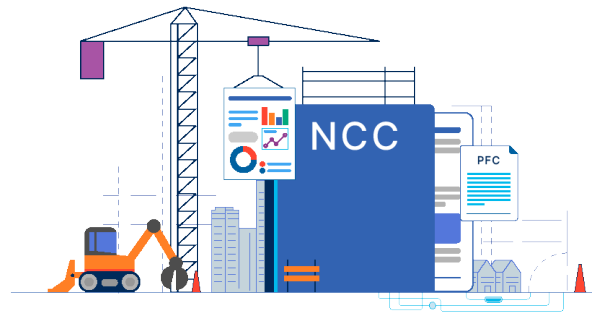
The NSW Sub-Committee launched big time into “Policy” in 2021 when the NSW Design and Building Practitioners Act revolutionised the construction industry. Our past colleague and founder of this new ACRA policy drive was then Board Member Caroline MacConnachie; and we have moved mountains ever since!

In 2022 Deb Lockart took on the lead of the remedial-government consultation and re-badged the NSW policy team as an Advocacy group representing ACRA. Deb Lockart, Grahame Vile, Peter Johnsson, Helen Kowal and Tom Mackay have remained a strong force over the past three years in representing ACRA. The recent Panel discussion in NSW with Assistant Building Commissioner Matt Press is true testament of the past three years of ACRA NSW’s strong advocacy work.

Our Panel discussion shared the outcomes of our advocacy work of the past three years and celebrated the launch of the [Remedial-Government working group paper](#). Our advocacy work will inform our approach nationally; we are thinking carefully as to how we use NSW’s momentum in extending our advocacy successes to other States and Territories.

### The proposed National Construction Code 2025,

The proposed NCC 2025 draft comment, has provided ACRA with the platform to take advocacy one step further! This was a true collaboration between the ACRA Advocacy and Technical Committees. As lead of this process, I thank the two Committees and the numerous individual members who reached out and took time to review the proposed changes and put “pen to paper”. The comradery throughout this whole process was extremely rewarding. Thank you all. I copy an excerpt from our NCC 2025 response below:



***ACRA’s purpose in submitting a response to the proposed NCC 2025 provisions, noting the State and Territory’s regulatory oversight of existing buildings, is to articulate the challenges for the remedial building industry early and seek support in finding workable and manageable solutions at State and Territory level.***

*ACRA will review the State and Territory legislation in understanding the impact across Australia for the remedial building industry. It is hoped that the NCC 2025 will acknowledge the challenges for the remedial building industry providing a clear pathway for the industry to navigate at a State and Territory level.*

*This NCC 2025 response captures a range of provisions which, generally existing buildings will be unable to comply. This is ACRA’s first and early response, and there may be further provisions which are equally not possible for the remedial building industry to be able to meet. Potentially the proposed NCC 2025, unless managed well at a State and Territory level, will significantly impact the maintenance and repair of existing buildings across Australia.*

You can read our [ACRA submission here](#).

By Deb Lockart, Advocacy lead

## State Updates



### ACRA New South Wales

*(From the NSW President, Grahame Vile & Vice President Deb Lockart)*

We have had an extremely busy and rewarding month, since last writing.

Our Panel discussion with Matt Press, NSW Assistant Building Commissioner was a resounding success. Our event was sold out!

Matt shared with members an update about the Building Commission and key learnings from remedial audits.

The Panel discussion provided an opportunity for ACRA and the NSW Government to launch the [Remedial-Government working group paper](#). The Paper identifies the challenges for the remedial building industry in meeting regulatory requirements, performance requirements and considers remedial solutions. The paper articulates regulatory reform ideas for consideration by the NSW Government. Co-chairs of the working group are Deborah Lockart (ACRA) and Matt Press (Building Commission).

Our paper is an important 'landing page' to refer in understanding where we have been and what we are striving for. The issues are complex, and I hope that they are succinctly captured in our paper. The paper reflects the next chapter of our remedial-government consultation. Discussion has already commenced with the NSW Government about the reform ideas outlined in the working group's paper.

The Panel also presented ACRA's response to the proposed NCC 2025 provisions. Advocacy lead Deb Lockart communicated that we have commenced discussion with NSW Government about these provisions, acknowledging that the remedial industry will be unable to comply with the proposed NCC 2025 provisions. Deb reiterated that we must consider how we navigate this for the remedial industry across Australia.

Helen Kowal presented about the advocacy team's recent meeting with the government on the NSW Building Bill.

ACRA values our work with the NSW Government and thanks Matt Press and his teams for their commitment to the remedial-government consultation process.

Thank you to our growing membership who attend and contribute to these Panel discussions. A true celebration of everything ACRA!

[Panel's presentation handout.](#)

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### NSW Events, seeking your input.

*By Daniel Caruana*

We are looking for your feedback about our next NSW event. We are considering an event for October 2024 on **Site Productivity**, designed to equip industry professionals with the knowledge and tools to enhance project execution and efficiency. Authored by Meredith Cioffi and presented by [Matt Stevens PhD](#), a seasoned advisor with over 40 years of experience, this session will delve into the intricacies of the construction industry, focusing on tendering, planning, and the pivotal role of site supervisors.

Discover best practices, strategies for steady project flow, and the importance of measurement in driving improvement. Whether you're an executive, operations manager, project manager, or site leader, this seminar promises valuable insights for all.

Look out for our LinkedIn post and let us know if you support this. We will be guided by our members and what you would like.



## ACRA Training Courses



### ACRA Remedial Waterproofing

Congratulations to our inaugural class on 26 June with all places filled prior to our official launch.

We were honoured to have Sam Parker as the Australasian Concrete Repair & Remedial Building Association (ACRA) trainer.

Over the past two years Grahame Vile has led a large team of contributors to prepare the training material. Grahame was in attendance on the day to offer his support. Kudos to Grahame for this achievement.

### ACRA Remedial Waterproofing – 1 day: 22 July – Parramatta

The ACRA Remedial Waterproofing Training Day provides attendees with a coverage of the fundamentals of remedial waterproofing. We include review of diagnostic steps, designing for remedial work, quality control and implementation.

Enrol here [ACRA | ACRA Remedial Waterproofing Course \(acrassoc.com.au\)](https://www.acrassoc.com.au/courses/2024/07/22-remedial-waterproofing)

Further dates and locations to be advised, contact [info@acrassoc.com.au](mailto:info@acrassoc.com.au) to be notified of upcoming training days.

### ACRA/ ACA Concrete Structures & Buildings – 2 day: 25-26 July online

The course provides an understanding of the mechanisms of the corrosion, protection, and repair of reinforced concrete structures and buildings.

Enrol here [ACRA | ACRA ACA Concrete Structures & Buildings 2 day online \(acrassoc.com.au\)](https://www.acrassoc.com.au/courses/2024/07/25-26-concrete-structures-buildings)

## Upcoming ACRA Events

### WA Concrete Crack Repair Investigation & Repairs

When: 7 August 2024

Tickets on sale now [HERE](#)

Speakers:

- Rodney Paull, GHD – crack width investigation and interpretation
- Karen Amery, Sika – crack repair materials selection
- Phil Brown, Elite – crack repair application case study

### ACRA QL The Remedial Industry Trade Show

When: 04 September 2024

Any company that supplies products or services to the remedial industry should not miss the opportunity to be an exhibitor at The ACRA Trade Show 2024, the show that's all about remedial building, repair and waterproofing!

### ACRA WA Case Study – What can go wrong? How we fix it?

When: 30 Oct 2024

### ACRA WA End of Year Celebration

When: 27 Nov 2024

## Sponsorships

ACRA has a number of events coming up looking for sponsorship. For any organisation who wishes to provide sponsorship to the below events, please email [info@acrassoc.com.au](mailto:info@acrassoc.com.au)

- WA Concrete Crack Repair Investigation & Repairs
- ACRA QL The Remedial Industry Trade Show

## Useful Links

- [HB84:2018 – Purchase Standards Australia – ACRA Guide to Concrete Repair & Protection](#)
- [Guide to Standard Method of Measurement of Repair Quantities – FREE](#)
- Where to find your [local state President and Sub-Committees](#) and [national ACRA Board](#)

## Contact Us



For latest information follow our LinkedIn company page, followers are growing fast and if you haven't followed us yet then you can do so [here](#)

### For ACRA enquiries contact:

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