

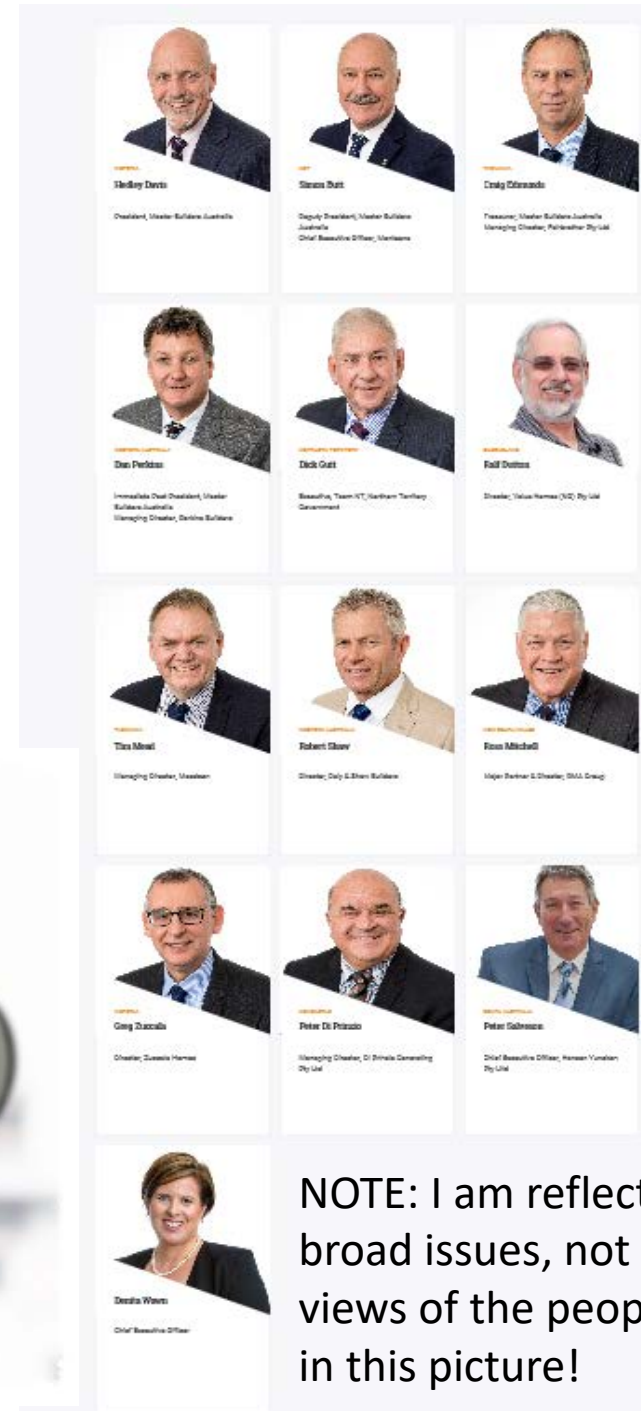
Building a consumer voice into decisions

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Energy Consumers Australia
Summit

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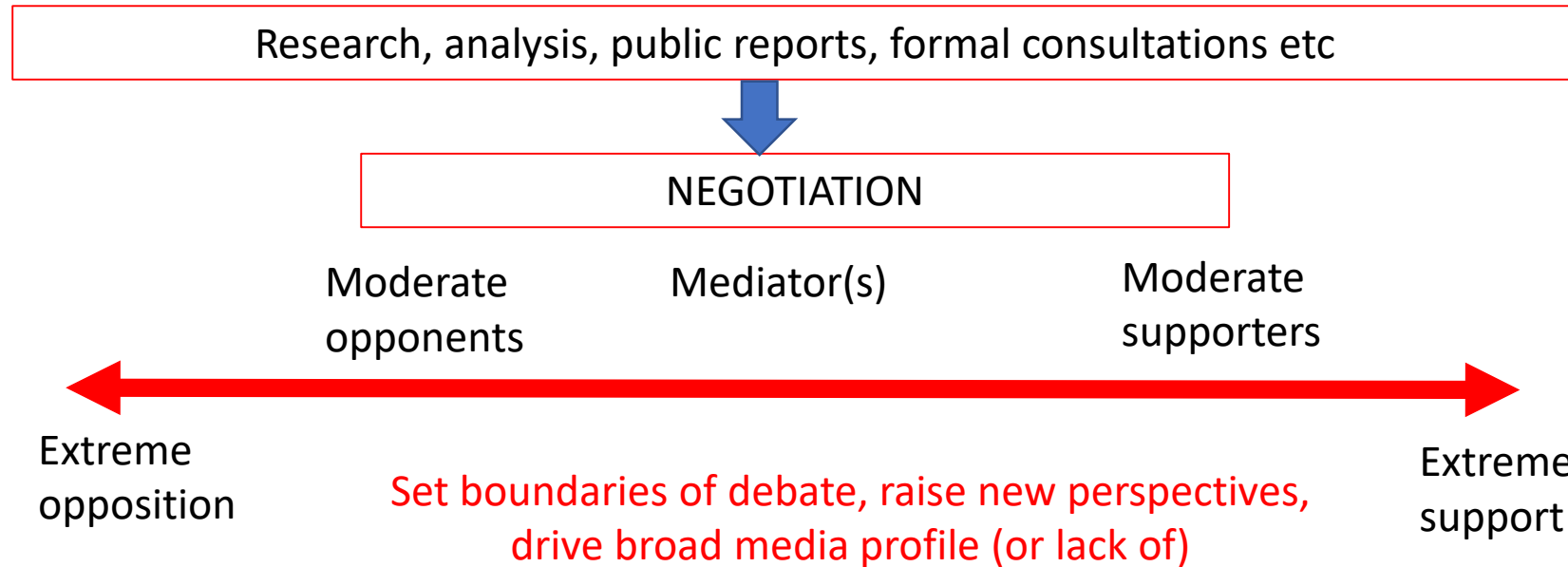
NOTE: I am reflecting broad issues, not the views of the people in this picture!

Important to have a range of players

- They define boundaries of debate
- Having some near centre provides capacity for negotiation of outcomes
- Negotiators need others to set boundaries of debate
- Public servants CAN'T define boundaries of debate

Essential to provide negotiators and 'public interest groups' with secure resources to fund:

- Trusted experts
- Wages and expenses
- Consultation, communication, networking with and education of constituents and community



Failure to resource may AMPLIFY conflict because alienated groups may:

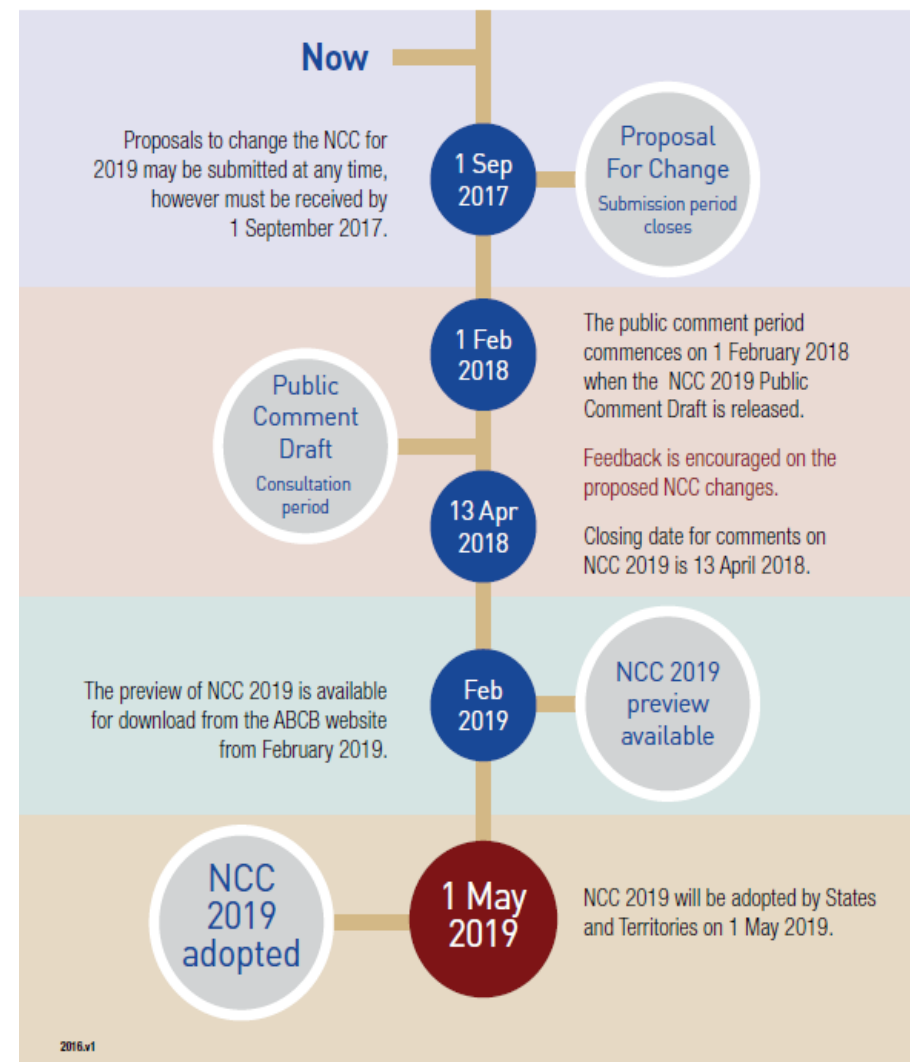
- Stage 'media events'
- Base strategy on poor information
- Undermine trust in governance more broadly
- ????

THE KEY DATES FOR NCC 2019

The Building Ministers' Forum (BMF) made a decision to move to a three-year National Construction Code (NCC) amendment cycle following the 2016 edition; meaning that, the next scheduled edition will be NCC 2019.

In order for the ABCB to make the most effective use of resources, reduce unnecessary churn and focus on priorities Proposals for Change (PFC) that repeat previous submissions, involve matters outside the scope of the NCC or the purpose of which would make no material change to a provision are discouraged.

The following describes key NCC 2019 dates:



Continuity of consumer representation and access to strong and broad research, technical/social science, and communications expertise, *and their integration* are fundamental

- Processes are lengthy: continuity and ‘corporate memory’ are important
- Growing capacity takes time, requires resources to reward and provide career structures
- Development of a strong, integrated technical and social science base and informed, sensitive and effective communication skills *from a consumer perspective* is fundamental to balanced debate and good policy
- Senior, high status support in academia and research institutions and community groups needed for stable institutional structures and maintain priority

Representation Gap in residential building energy space

PCA board: 19 members: office bearers 3; building development 11; real estate 1; owner/manager 8+; legal 1

MBA board: 13 members office bearers and representatives of state and territory branches: MBA staff/office bearers 4; Construction firms 8; Building products 1; Consultants 1; Territory govt 1; project mgt 1 (some have double roles)

HIA board: 16 members: Legal 2; HIA staff 3; Building firms 4; Building products 2; Company boards (unspecified) 4; Consultants 1

ABCB board: 16 members: chair, governments, up to 5 from industry (construction 2, plumbing, building specification service, HIA), Aust Local Govt Association (Source <https://www.abcb.gov.au/ABCB/The-Board> accessed 30/8/18)

ASBEC executive: 1 representative from each of: academic, energy efficiency industry, facilities mgt, environmental certification, green building, PCA, environmental group, HVAC industry

Standards Aust board: 7 members: several with relevant building energy and sustainability experience, but mainly from industry perspective. Many committees – haven't checked

Apart from ASBEC no form of formal small consumer representation

NOTE: building policy is about a lot more than regulation

NON-RESIDENTIAL:

PCA has board representation of both 'suppliers' and 'consumers' (property owners and managers), others mainly 'suppliers'

Many well-paid, expert professional, technical and consulting staff – mainly involved in medium to large projects, who 'aim high' and innovate

OUTCOME: major projects and premium buildings influenced by NABERS, Green Star etc: 'consumers' see these as indicating performance and status. Many accept regulation as 'levelling playing field' and raising status of building industry. Some 'trickle down' to smaller buildings.

Residential:

Residential consumers have little representation and don't have well resourced expertise/leadership. Sector dominated by small builders and contractors with limited resources and their representative associations. Within governments, industry and finance departments are most powerful.....

OUTCOME: processes are dominated by 'supply side', with emphasis on 'sticker price' of housing (NOT affordability).

“It must be remembered that there is nothing more difficult to plan, more doubtful of success, nor more dangerous to manage than a new system. For the initiator has the enmity of all who would profit by the preservation of the old institution and merely lukewarm defenders in those who gain by the new ones.”

— Niccolò Machiavelli

THE END



The policy challenge – getting the ball past many moving players.....