

MEDIA RELEASE

ARCHITEAM OPPOSES PROPOSED ABOLITION OF THE ARCHITECTS REGISTRATION BOARD OF VICTORIA

Melbourne, February 2026

Since 2022, ArchiTeam has participated as an invited industry body in Victorian Government-led consultations reviewing the Architects Registration Board of Victoria (ARBV).

Over the past 12 months, ArchiTeam's recent past Chair, John Liu, and CEO, Phoebe LaGerche-Wijsman, participated through separate consultation processes alongside the Australian Institute of Architects and the Association of Consulting Architects (ACA) in the Architects Regulations 2015 Sunset Review, which also considered the Architects Act 1991.

ArchiTeam supports many of the proposed updates arising from the sunset review, particularly those aimed at improving the operations of the ARBV. However, ArchiTeam raised concerns about regulatory overreach, including proposals to expand the ARBV's powers to prescribe Continuing Professional Development.

Lack of Transparency

In late December 2025, the Victorian Government released the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for remaking the Architects Regulations on the Engage Victoria website, with submissions due by 2 February 2026.

Buried at the bottom of the webpage of Engage Victoria was an "Important note" referencing the *Independent Review of the Victorian Public Service* by Helen Silver. That report proposed expanding the role of the Business Licensing Authority (BLA) to regulate architects, surveyors, and veterinarians—effectively abolishing the standalone ARBV.

There has been **no consultation with architectural professional bodies** regarding this proposal.

ArchiTeam has completed the Engage Victoria survey and submitted a formal response to the government.

Why This Matters

Abolishing the ARBV is not a minor administrative change. It would require substantial amendments, or a complete rewrite of the Architects Act 1991.

The Act exists to protect consumers and the public interest. It establishes minimum standards for education, competence, professional conduct, and continuing development, and defines architects' responsibilities to clients, communities, and public safety.

Weakening this framework would:

- undermine public confidence
- reduce professional mobility
- erode education and practice standards
- place Victoria out of step with other jurisdictions

ArchiTeam's Position

ArchiTeam **does not support** the proposed absorption of the ARBV into a multi-profession regulator.

Architecture is a specialist profession with direct implications for public safety and the built environment. Effective regulation requires profession-specific expertise and clear accountability. These cannot be replicated within a broad licensing authority.

Consolidation risks increasing confusion for consumers about who regulates architects, how complaints are managed, and how standards are enforced. Clear, visible, and dedicated regulation is essential to consumer protection.

Victoria would also be out of alignment with national best practice. Other states and territories retain independent, profession-specific architectural regulators.

There is no compelling financial case for abolition. The ARBV operates on a cost-neutral basis, funded by registration fees. Absorption would introduce transition costs and administrative complexity without clear public benefit.

Our Call to Government

ArchiTeam urges the Victorian Government to retain the Architects Registration Board of Victoria as an independent statutory authority, even if repositioned within a broader administrative framework.

Efficiency must not come at the expense of specialist regulation, consumer protection, or professional standards.