



## NCC 2022's Consistent Volume Structure

The 2022 edition of the National Construction Code (NCC) comes with some important changes to its structure and format, as part of the Australian Building Codes Board's (ABCBC) commitment to delivering a code that is user-friendly and modern. This supporting document provides a snapshot summary of what to expect with the code's new consistent volume structure.

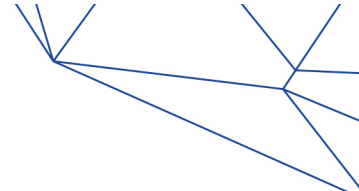
### Background

NCC Volume Two was originally developed in the mid-1990s as a stand-alone 'housing code', structured in a way that broadly reflected the house-building process on-site. For simpler projects, users could follow the code's Acceptable Construction Practice (ACP), which were designed to be read as separate chapters for the different trades working on-site. For more complex projects, the code called up a number of Australian Standards (or similar), which were referred to as 'Acceptable Construction Manuals' (ACM). Users often had a choice to follow either the ACP or the ACM.

Now, to ensure the NCC is well-understood and adopted by a broad range of users (including new entrants to the building and plumbing industries), and to reach its full potential online, all three volumes of the NCC need to have the same structure. A uniform structure within and between volumes also means the code is machine-readable, so it can be transformed into a range of online options now and into the future. Importantly, this needs to be done while also preserving the ACM/ACP system that has proven both popular and successful with the housing industry over many years.

[A detailed history of the evolution of the NCC volume structure can be found here.](#)





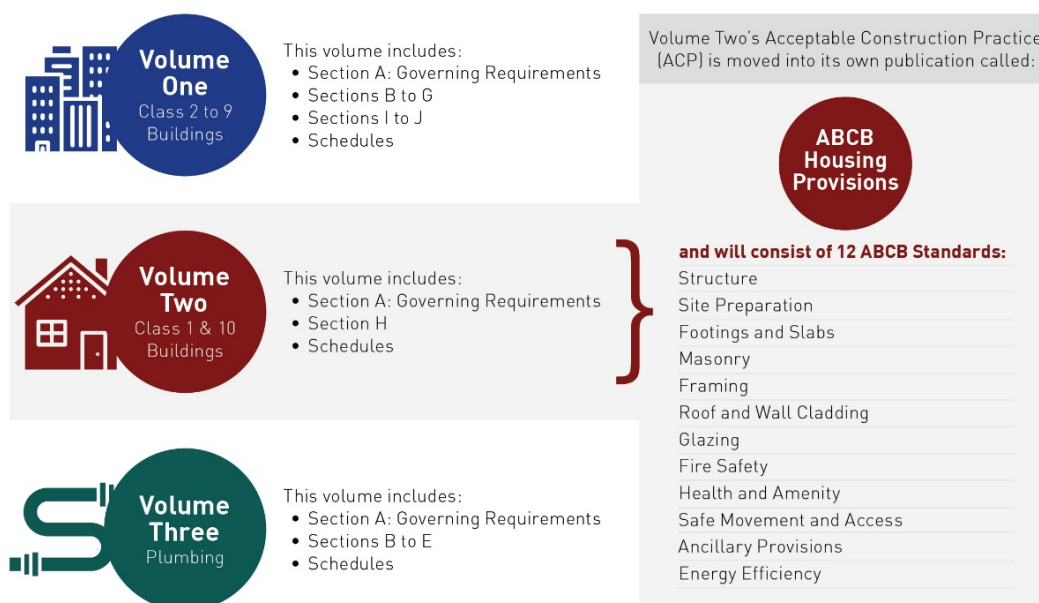
## What's changing?

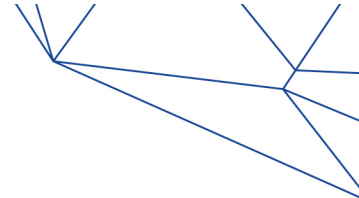
After an analysis of the content and intent of the various parts of the code, the ABCB has developed an Information Architecture (IA) for the NCC that enables all 3 volumes to have the same structure. This will have very little impact on Volumes One and Three - the big change occurs in Volume Two.

The ACP content of Volume Two will be moved into a separate ABCB publication, to be known as the 'Housing Provisions'. This will be divided up into chapters which reflect the 12 Parts that currently make up Section 3 of NCC Volume Two, in their existing order. And just like in earlier editions of NCC Volume Two, the chapters of the Housing Provisions can be divided up as separate standards for the different trades working on-site.

The ACM content will be unchanged. And where there was previously a choice of ACM or ACP as a Deemed-to-Satisfy Provision, this will continue but with a change in terminology. In place of ACM or ACP, in most cases the DTS will simply refer to chapters of the Housing Provisions and/or to relevant Australian Standards (or similar). The diagram below demonstrates the volume structure of NCC 2022, including the Housing Provisions.

## Volume Structure for NCC 2022





The DTS Provisions will be laid out within Volume Two itself to correspond with the appropriate Performance Requirements, which will be set out in essentially the same order they currently are in Section 2 of NCC Volume Two.

And, of course, the Housing Provisions will be part of the NCC suite, freely available online and valid for use as a DTS Solution wherever it is referenced by NCC Volume Two.

## Benefits

While your new NCC may look a bit different at first, the features and benefits will go long way in better supporting NCC users in achieving compliance.

Features	Benefits
New, predictable and easy-to-digest volume structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Easy to read, understand and reference</li><li>✓ A better user experience</li><li>✓ Means new users only have to learn one structure</li><li>✓ Allows the code to be better aligned with existing legislative styles and technical writing practices</li></ul>
Machine-readable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Allows the NCC to be easily integrated into multiple customisable formats including online, smart phones, tablets etc.</li><li>✓ Personalised filtering of content</li><li>✓ Enables integration by third-party software developers, driving innovation</li><li>✓ Simplified publication process</li><li>✓ Enables future expansion of the NCC.</li></ul>

## More resources

The ABCB has developed a range of resources [<link to initiative page>](#) to support you with the changes to the NCC's structure and format, ahead of Public Comment in May 2021. Public Comment is your opportunity to have input on the content of NCC 2022, but please note you must be an [NCC registered user](#) to provide comment.