



The Hon COURTNEY HOUSSOS MLC

PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Ms Lisa King
Policy & Advocacy Manager NSW
Australian Institute of Architects
By email: lisa.king@architecture.com.au

Dear Lisa,

Thank you for the opportunity to outline NSW Labor's plan for building reform in the lead up to the NSW election. I particularly would like to thank you and the Australian Institute of Architects for the professional and constructive engagement with NSW Labor over the last 4 years.

If elected on 25 March 2023, a Minns Labor Government will reform and properly regulate the NSW building and construction industry and will provide long overdue financial support to the owners of Mascot Towers.

Labor will ensure a repeat of Mascot Towers never happens through a comprehensive overhaul of building and construction in NSW by:

- **appointing a separate Minister for Building** who will be responsible for the NSW building industry;
- **establishing a NSW Building Commission**, a single body to oversee the regulation, licensing and oversight of the industry;
- **creating one single, plain English Building Act** to consolidate existing legislation, reduce red tape and duplication and allow consumers to be better informed;
- introducing **new, stricter requirements on private building certifiers**, including limiting their work from a single builder or developer to 50 per cent of their total income;
- **standardising certifications from licensed tradespeople to be lodged on the e-planning portal**, making the certification process more rigorous;
- **appointing a Strata Commissioner** to oversee strata governance and policy across government;
- **reviewing the progress of Project Remediate** and the removal of dangerous, flammable cladding, and
- **reviewing the Home Building Compensation Fund.**

Mascot Towers remains the worst example of the NSW Liberals' and Nationals' failure to properly regulate the building industry. The owners have been left financially and emotionally devastated in the 3 ½ years since their evacuation.

We won't let this issue fester for any longer. Labor will stand with Mascot Towers owners by:

- partnering with the owners to remediate the building by either providing a loan or acting as a guarantor for a loan;
- guaranteeing accommodation support is continued until the owners are able to safely return; and
- allowing the council rates to be waived for the period of their evacuation, through legislation.

Despite repeated requests for help, the NSW Government has refused to sit down with the owners to try and find a proper solution. The six-month emergency accommodation support package has been extended seven times now, and only after campaigning from the owners and NSW Labor. The owners have had no certainty over whether the scheme will continue.

Thank you again for the opportunity to outline NSW Labor's comprehensive plan to reform the building and construction industry. Our plan will restore faith and confidence in the industry, which is a key driver in our state's economy. It will also ensure we protect what will be most family's major financial investment, their home.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and the Australian Institute of Architects. If I can assist with any other matter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



26 February 2023

The Hon COURTNEY HOUSSOS MLC

Shadow Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation

Shadow Minister for Natural Resources

P: (02) 9230 2694 | E: c.houssos@parliament.nsw.gov.au

 @courtneynsw  @CourtneyHoussos

