

As many of you may be aware, on Thursday 20 October, the NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet, along with Former Prime Minister Paul Keating, took the unprecedented step of using a morning press conference at Barangaroo to launch a misguided and completely unwarranted attack on the NSW Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects. The distasteful, derogatory and false remarks have, of course, caused outrage among many of our members.

The facts of the matter are that at no time in recent months has the NSW Chapter made derogatory comments on the Wilkinson Eyre tower, or on the design elements of the Barangaroo site project itself. The Institute does not negatively pass judgement on the work of members of our profession. It is our role, however, to point out government process discrepancies and failures which impact our profession and the general public, and this has been the case historically with the Barangaroo site.

While we appreciate the passionate response these comments have elicited, we know that effective advocacy does not come from firing accusations across the bows at people who are professionals at twisting tales. The Institute will continue to restate the facts, comment on process and remind people that former Prime Minister Keating was actually a member of the unanimous jury that selected the original winning scheme.

A swift and comprehensive response was delivered within hours of the press conference on the day it was held, with staff contacting both those in government, opposition and numerous television and print media contacts.

Today a letter was sent to Premier Perrottet demanding an apology on behalf of our members.

Kind regards

Laura Cockburn
NSW Chapter President
Australian Institute of Architects

Shannon Battison
National President
Australian Institute of Architects