



The Hon. Victor Dominello MP
Minister for Customer Service and Digital Government
Minister for Small Business
Minister for Fair Trading

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

Dear Ms King

Since 2018, the NSW Government has put building at the forefront of its reform agenda. The Australian Institute of Architects has been working hand in glove with the NSW Government throughout this reform journey, providing expert advice and support to implement the six pillars of reforms under Construct NSW – generational reforms that are about restoring confidence to the sector.

Without the steadfast support of industry, our efforts to make the construction industry more customer-centric would not have been as successful as they have been to date, which is in large part because of the tireless work of the Institute to be co-designers on the new regulatory framework and support design professional to transition into the schemes.

Along with the appointment of the NSW Building Commissioner, David Chandler OAM, the NSW Government has introduced comprehensive reforms to the way buildings are designed, constructed and certified. These legislative reforms are ensuring that comprehensive designs are prepared by competent design professionals, that builders follow these designs to deliver buildings that are fit for purpose and holding certifiers accountable for oversighting the design and build process. Underpinning these changes is a need to give consumers confidence that their buildings will be compliant, safe and resilient.

Over the past 18 months we have also worked closely with the Institute, including supporting working to impose clearer obligations on certifiers as part of the Certifiers Practice Standard, map out reforms to fire safety rules to improve the quality and longevity of fire protection in class 2 buildings and utilise continuing professional development through our Construct NSW digital learning platform to deliver targeted modules on areas where practitioners are falling short of expected standards, including waterproofing, multi-discipline design integration and working with Australian Standards.

These reforms have lifted accountability across the sector, with NSW Fair Trading and the Office of the Building Commissioner equipped with comprehensive enforcement powers to hold all members of the construction process, including developers, accountable for their work. The Government's work has delivered better outcomes for consumers, and ensure that the person who has created the risk of non-compliant or unsafe work is responsible for responding to the risk.

In all of this our Government has been acknowledged as being serious about reform and restoring consumer confidence. We released further reform proposals in 2022 that seek to map out the next phase of reforms, including a sector-wide Building Bill, chain of responsibility obligations for building product safety, a comprehensive framework to facilitate the continued uptake of decennial liability insurance (only offered in NSW), enhanced building control obligations through building certificates and a pathway forward on pre-fabricated building work.

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Supporting this future-focused reform agenda, the Government has also been working to address legacy concerns in the industry. Under the leadership of David Chandler OAM we have introduced Project Remediate, a low-interest loan scheme designed to assist owners corporations to remediate and remove aluminium cladding from high-rise buildings. There are more than 140 registered participants in the scheme.

Project Remediate is on track to achieve the NSW Government's key objective: to improve the safety and quality of high-risk residential apartment buildings and protect the most important assets of thousands of people living in strata communities in NSW by the middle of 2024

Project Intervene allows owners of high-rise residential buildings less than six years old to report major defects to the Building Commissioner, who through legislation can enter into binding undertakings with developers to undertake remediation and rectification of defects.

In addition, we have appointed a Property Services Commissioner, John Minns to drive reform and lead industry engagement across the real estate and property services sector which contributes \$100 billion and over 37,000 jobs to the NSW economy.

There are many more fronts that the NSW Government sees the need for continued leadership, including work to lower the impact of carbon in making and operating buildings and, embracing the opportunities that are now presenting as new modern methods of construction take hold. The Government has acknowledged the need to attract and skill the future workforce. There are many initiatives on foot including programs to attract more women into the industry and to work with NSW TAFE to deliver 21st Century teaching facilities such as those at Ryde and Kingswood.

The NSW Government continues to work with industry and community to ensure that not only is NSW a nation leader for design and construction, but setting best practice globally.

Yours sincerely



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