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MEDIA RELEASE

How will registration of engineers lead to a safer building industry for NSW?

Recent cases of residential high-rise buildings with defects have exposed problems within the building and construction industry in NSW. These incidents have serious consequences for owners who are left to foot the bill for costly repairs, with few options for redress.

The Committee on Environment and Planning has today released its report on one aspect of recent reforms to address these issues. The Committee was tasked with reviewing the Professional Engineers Registration Bill 2019 (Engineers Bill), introduced by Shadow Minister for Building Reform and Property, Yasmin Catley MP. The Committee looked at how registration of engineers could work with broader reforms proposed by the Government to regulate the building industry.

“We know that engineers do work that is critical to our infrastructure”, said Committee Chair Alex Greenwich MP. “This work goes beyond residential construction, and includes civil works, electricity networks and transport infrastructure. Given how important these projects are, it's vital that engineers be subject to appropriate regulation”.

In its report, the Committee noted that the Government's reforms to the building and construction sector passed Parliament in June 2020. The *Design and Building Practitioners Act 2020* (DBP Act) contained reforms that should improve residential construction standards. Significantly, the DPB Act also provided for the registration of engineers.

“The registration of engineers in NSW is welcome and long overdue. Many stakeholders who took part in our inquiry supported registration. They told us that it would improve accountability in the industry, and promote high standards”.

The registration model in the DPB Act differs from that in the Engineers Bill. The Secretary of the Department of Customer Service will manage registration, instead of a Board of Professional Engineers, as was proposed by the Engineers Bill.

“While we support these changes, we think that the registration model will need to be looked at in detail when the reforms are reviewed. In particular, we think that the board-run model should be looked at as we found that it was a cost-effective and efficient way to register engineers”.

“We congratulate the Government on its reforms to the building sector. The framework for effective regulation of the sector has been established. While we feel that elements of the registration scheme could be refined, it's clear that consumers will benefit from these changes”.

The report is available on the Committee's [website](#).

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