



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

## MEDIA RELEASE

# REPORT ON BUILDING STANDARDS, QUALITY AND DISPUTES IN NSW

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**13 November 2019**

The Public Accountability Committee tasked with considering the regulation of building standards, building quality and building disputes released its first report today.

Committee Chair David Shoebridge MLC said, 'The public's faith in building standards and building quality in New South Wales is at an all-time low. During this inquiry we heard from many key industry stakeholders that there are deep structural failings in the New South Wales construction industry; not all practitioners are required to be licensed or registered; there are two-dollar companies setting up and closing down; there are unqualified and unprincipled developers building complex multi-storey apartment blocks; and a regulator failing to regulate.'

Mr Shoebridge continued, 'The report therefore makes 19 recommendations to improve the building and construction industry. In particular, the committee has recommended the establishment of a Building Commission, that is sufficiently resourced and with the powers it needs to effectively regulate and oversight the industry. We have also recommended that the statutory warranties for both major and minor building defects be extended to a minimum of seven years and that the defects bond under the Strata Building Bond and Inspections Scheme be increased.'

'We are disappointed with the government's piece-meal approach to legislation, and the lack of progress in implementing it. That approach is no-where near enough to address the loss of confidence in the industry. Given this, we have recommended that the government consolidate existing laws and regulation into a stand-alone Building Act, overseen by a single, senior Building Minister. We have also recommended that the government address a number of concerns raised during this inquiry when it brings the *Design and Building Practitioners Bill 2019* to the Upper House.'

Mr Shoebridge explained, 'The NSW Government has a clear blueprint to follow, in the recommendations in the Shergold Weir and Lambert reports. Although the committee is yet to consider the issue of flammable cladding in detail, we have recommended that the NSW Government act now to address this issue.'

The inquiry report and other inquiry documents, including submissions and hearing transcripts are available on the committee's website at: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/publicaccountability](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/publicaccountability).

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