



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **FINAL REPORT ON BUILDING STANDARDS, QUALITY AND DISPUTES IN NSW**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**30 April 2020**

The Public Accountability Committee today tabled its final report for the inquiry into the regulation of building standards, building quality and building disputes. The final report focuses on the important issue of flammable cladding on New South Wales buildings, the role of private certification in protecting building standards and the role of strata committees in responding to building defects. The report makes 22 recommendations to the NSW Government.

Committee Chair, Mr David Shoebridge MLC, said, 'This inquiry and the two reports tabled by the committee highlight the systemic issues plaguing the building and construction industry and the lack of regulation and oversight by the NSW Government. The issues are deeply concerning and the government is yet to make substantial reforms to bring this industry up to scratch.'

'It is particularly concerning that three years following the Grenfell Tower fire the NSW Government is yet to implement a coordinated approach to rectifying flammable cladding on New South Wales buildings. This is a major public safety issue. The committee has therefore made a number of recommendations to address this issue, including that the NSW Government provide a substantial funding package, proportionate to the Victorian Government's \$600 million package, to fund the rectification of buildings containing flammable cladding.'

'What was clear throughout this inquiry is that it is homeowners who are left in the lurch. Not only did we receive evidence of the extreme financial cost to homeowners in rectifying flammable cladding or major defects in their buildings, but also the emotional toll from many years of potential disputes with builders, developers or even other strata owners. It is unacceptable that it is left up to homeowners to manage this with no support from the government. The committee therefore recommends that a Strata Commissioner be appointed to support strata homeowners and that the NSW Government explore additional financial assistance measures to assist homeowners in rectifying major defects,' Mr Shoebridge continued.

'The committee also reports on the issues surrounding private certification. It is clear that self-regulation of this industry over the last 20 years has not worked. The committee makes a number of recommendations to improve the current system, however we will be considering reverting building certification back to local councils at a further inquiry to be established at the end of this year. It is important that we continue to scrutinise the government as they implement their reforms across the building and construction industry', Mr Shoebridge stated.

Both committee report's 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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*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Mr David Shoebridge MLC, on 9230 3030*