



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

New inquiry into regulation of building standards

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 July 2021

Two years on from its original inquiry into the regulation of building standards highlighting the experience of residents of the Opal and Mascot Towers, the NSW Upper House Public Accountability Committee has commenced a further inquiry into the regulation of building standards in New South Wales.

The committee will examine the efficacy and adequacy of the government's regulation of building standards. Specifically, it will investigate the cost, effectiveness and safety concerns arising from the use of flammable cladding, as well as private certification of and engineering reports for construction projects.

Committee Chair, Mr David Shoebridge MLC, said, "Two years on, the committee remains deeply concerned about the Government's regulation and oversight of both building certification and cladding. While a number of our recommendations have been implemented, the committee is committed to ensuring appropriate consumer protections, safe building standards, and timely and effective responses to building defects. Without these, the lives and life savings of community members are at risk."

"The release of the independent report into the Skyview Towers at Castle Hill last week has highlighted again the very serious, long term consequences of poor building standards, and the critical need to prevent shoddy construction work. The Grenfell Tower disaster and the more recent Miami apartment tragedy are stark examples of what can go so horribly wrong with failing building standards. We need to urgently learn from these examples in New South Wales."

"The first step for our committee in holding the government to account for improving regulation is to seek stakeholder views and community members' stories, via written submissions. We strongly encourage submissions from impacted stakeholders, organisations and individuals," said Mr Shoebridge. Submissions are now open and close 29 August 2021.

"Next, the committee will hear from stakeholders and pursue answers from government representatives at public hearings," Mr Shoebridge continued. The committee will hold a hearing on 30 September 2021 (focusing on cladding) then on 11 October 2021 (focusing on private certification). The committee will hand down its report in late November.

For further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, or for more information on how to make a submission please go to our [website](#).

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, Mr David Shoebridge MLC, on 9230 3030.