

**INQUIRY INTO REVIEW INTO THE DESIGN AND
BUILDING PRACTITIONERS ACT 2020 AND THE
RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT BUILDINGS (COMPLIANCE
AND ENFORCEMENT POWERS) ACT 2020**

Organisation: Swerve Design

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I shudder to think how the latest spate of announcements touting increased housing for a growing nation will be achieved as we've noticed a raft of changes being legislated that do everything to decrease the output of construction. None more than the Design and Building Practitioners Act 2020 and the Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement Powers) 2020.

Whilst we wholly support an industry where the end consumer are assured a safe, well-designed, well built, sustainable, energy-efficient, healthy and protected built environment, we have seen the direct impacts of the above legislation leading to cost blow-outs, delays, confusion and red tape. The confusion around the implementation of the new provisions has actually led us to employ a consultant who's wholly engaged to help us and others in the team understand and fill in the paperwork. It's a new industry filling in the planning portal in itself!

We now advise our clients that the new legislation for Class 2 projects have added 30% to our workload which we need to pass on as additional fees. And many months of delays as the paperwork and portal submission stages are flowed in strict order. Other consultants have similar experience we understand.

Being an interior designer, we have had to reduce our scope and engage an architect to be our regulated design practitioner, thereby reducing our efficiency and doubling co-ordination of the paperwork between us. This has delayed the projects further.

The majority of our services are in renovations and refurbishments, taking existing buildings and maximising their use and amenity. These projects are quick and effective ways of improving cities and seem the ideal type of construction to help move our country forward where we need it most.

As interior designers, we have been excluded from the new Design and Building Practitioners Act 2020 and the Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement Powers) 2020. We therefore cannot play a direct part in assisting our towns, cities and nations move forward. We can only play a decorative support role now, behind either an architect or a building designer.

We implore the state government to consider a way of including interior designers as a category under Design Practitioner Registration Classes in the Design and Building Practitioners Act 2020.

We suggest a registration process for interior designers in NSW for up until now have enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to the built environment in meaningful, practical, technical and professional services that, in tandem with the creative, aesthetic, branding and emotional place making skills we are all trained in to allow buildings to become their best.