

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

Organisation: Design Matters National

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

Design Matters National is the peak body working to represent, and enhance the profile and performance of building designers, energy assessors, and other built environment professionals in Australia. It has the most building designers and energy efficiency assessor members of any national peak body in Australia.

Though we have our largest member cohort in Victoria, followed by Western Australia, Design Matters National has more than 150 members in NSW and many interstate members who practice across the border, in NSW.

Design Matters National provides members with information, collaboration and educational opportunities to promote excellence in their design work and business practices. It also partners with industry leaders, and advocates to government and statutory bodies about things that matter to DMN members, and believes sustainability, quality, and innovation are essential to advance a better-designed built environment in future Australia.

Design Matters National is the voice of members and as such has an interest in the review into the Design and Building Practitioners Act 2020 and the Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement Powers) Act 2020 and related draft government bills.

Ms Abigail Boyd MLC, Chair of the committee said: 'As required by the legislation, this review will consider the functions exercised or delegated by the Secretary of the Department of Customer Service. It will also examine whether the policy objectives of the Design and Building Practitioners Act 2020 and the Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement Powers) Act 2020 remain valid and whether the terms of the statutes are effective for securing these goals.'

Design Matters National appreciates the Committee reviewing these critical pieces of legislation and welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the review into the Design and Building Practitioners Act 2020 (NSW) and the Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement Powers) Act 2020 (NSW).

Our submission has been informed by input from Design Matters National members and Design Matters National would like to comment on the following two aspects of the review:

- **Principal Design Practitioner role**

Design Matters National strongly believes that, to ensure continuous oversight and quality assurance on large projects, the role of the Principal Design Practitioner should be expanded to include oversight and coordination of prescribed building work.

- **Design Practitioner – Architectural Class Experience**

Design Matters National agrees that individuals in the 'Design Practitioner – Architectural' class should be required to have five years of recent and relevant practical experience. Design Matters National would also agree that this should also apply to building designers, as the two years of experience is not sufficient.

Design Matters National appreciates the opportunity to make a submission to this review and applaud the efforts of the NSW government to advance a better-designed built environment.

July 2025.