



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thursday, 7 February 2019

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article entitled [*Greens want to reintroduce public building certification in an effort to protect property owners*](#) published in the Newcastle Herald on 6 February 2019.

The article contains several completely unchallenged claims against the private certification industry that reflect a failure to understand the legal role and functions of certifiers.

Private certifiers are public officials, and often local small businesses, who pride themselves on acting in the best interests of the public. Their responsibilities and obligations are the same as for certifiers employed by local government.

The overwhelming majority of private certifiers do the right thing by the community and play a crucial role in the safe provision of housing and other construction across NSW. The overall level of complaints is tiny compared to the hundreds of thousands of approvals each year.

Criticism of private certifiers often comes from fundamental misunderstandings of their role and responsibilities in the construction industry.

While there are significant issues in the construction industry, these stem from a lack of accountability across the entire industry.

Ill-informed commentary from elected officials does nothing to address these issues.

Yours sincerely,

Jill Brookfield

Chief Executive Officer
Association of Accredited Certifiers