

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*Monday, 25 March 2019*

### **PROMISED BUILDING REFORMS MUST BE A PRIORITY FOR RE-ELECTED NSW GOVERNMENT**

The Association of Accredited Certifiers (AAC) has today congratulated the Berejiklian Government on being returned to power.

Accredited Certifiers throughout NSW will be eagerly waiting for the Government's promised package of building industry reforms to be outlined in greater detail.

Early this year the Government [announced](#) a package of reforms targeted at the building sector, including:

- Introducing a Building Commissioner to act as the consolidated building regulator in NSW, including with responsibility for licensing and auditing practitioners.
- Clarifying the law to ensure there is an industry-wide duty of care to homeowners and owners corporations so that they have the right to compensation where a building practitioner has been negligent.
- Requiring building designers, including engineers, declare that building plans specify a building that will comply with the Building Code of Australia.
- Requiring builders to declare that buildings have been built according to their plans.
- Requiring building designers and builders to be registered.

AAC CEO, Jill Brookfield said Accredited Certifiers looked forward to working with the Government on its proposed reforms.

“Accredited Certifiers, and other building professionals throughout NSW, will be eagerly waiting for the re-elected Government to get moving on their proposed reform agenda,” Brookfield said.

“The Government's proposed reforms are potentially positive steps forward, but further information needs to be provided and implementation will be key.

“For too long, Governments have dragged their feet on vitally important reforms, including ensuring all building professionals such as builders, engineers, designers and subcontractors are accountable and registered or accredited.

“It is crucial that the Government's proposals introduce this accountability across the whole building industry, including ensuring all stakeholders in construction are required to be insured.

“Many building professionals, including Accredited Certifiers, are facing a crisis in the construction industry due to the lack of available and affordable Professional Indemnity insurance available.

“By ensuring all professionals are accountable for their work and ensuring PI insurance availability we can address this crisis and restore confidence in the construction industry.”

The AAC recently released an eight-point plan to improve accountability in the construction sector in NSW, which includes:

- All professionals involved in the design, installation and approvals process must be accredited and insured.
- All key personnel in the process who are not accredited must be licensed and be required to prove their competency at regular intervals.
- All documents related to the certification of a building should be in a standard form developed by industry and Government.
- All persons involved in the certification of any engineering design or technical aspect of construction must issue a certificate on a standard form.
- Comprehensive auditing of all accredited or licensed persons.
- All parties involved in the building product supply chain need to be accountable for the products they prescribe, specify, purchase and use.
- Amend the BASIX scheme to allow applicants to design buildings based on predetermined standards.
- Strengthen the administration of building regulation in NSW by bringing building regulations and control functions into one portfolio, reporting to one Minister.

To find out more about the role of Accredited Certifiers and AAC, visit:

[www.accreditedcertifiers.com.au](http://www.accreditedcertifiers.com.au)

**Media contact: Nick Trainor 0407 078 138**