

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*Wednesday, 11 December 2019*

### **BUILDING MINISTERS URGED TO FIX INSURANCE HORROR SHOW THIS FRIDAY THE 13<sup>TH</sup>**

The country's Building Ministers will be in the same room this Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> and they must announce concrete steps to address the insurance crisis plaguing the building industry.

The current professional indemnity insurance emergency is leaving the public exposed, industry practitioners exposed and causing a crisis of confidence in the entire industry.

As well as this, building certifiers are shutting their doors because of a lack of compliant and affordable insurance options.

The NSW-peak body for accredited certifiers, the Association of Accredited Certifiers (AAC) is calling on the Ministers to turn around a tide of inaction when they meet on Friday.

"Governments are not responding to this issue with the urgency the situation requires," AAC CEO, Jill Brookfield said.

"A year of no progress and uncertainty is hurting accredited certifiers, our industry, and by extension, the people who rely on us for new homes in our growing cities and regions.

"Accredited certifiers are currently facing premium increases as high as 1,200 per cent, and an environment where insurers are pulling out of the market.

"Smaller operators are feeling the brunt of the crisis, with insurers refusing to provide cover to some small business certifier companies. We are seeing certifiers leaving the industry.

"If accredited certifiers cannot access compliant cover, the construction industry more generally will come to a grinding halt.

"We know insurers are refusing to provide cover to accredited certifiers and insurance policies are even being sold that contain exclusions that do not comply with regulations.

"This Friday is D-day for building ministers, who must outline a long-term plan to address this crisis."

Ms Brookfield said it was also disappointing that industry voices will not be attending this Friday's meeting.

Data this month shows housing approvals are plummeting, interest rates are forecast to drop as soon as next February, and the biggest jump in housing prices since the 1990s.

"The housing market in Sydney is volatile and governments must act to give certainty to the industry and confidence to the public," Ms Brookfield said.

"We've got building approvals falling at a dramatic rate – and we've got political squabbling in NSW Parliament, with the NSW Government recently parking important legislation that will improve accountability.

"This long running crisis is leaving the community exposed – if an immediate solution is not delivered, the NSW construction industry will grind to a halt.

"Based on current evidence, it is clear that NSW can't do this alone. We need to manage this at a national level. Enough is enough."

For more information Accredited Certifiers and the AAC: [www.accreditedcertifiers.com.au](http://www.accreditedcertifiers.com.au)

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