

MEDIA RELEASE

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HOUSING CONSTRUCTION COSTS AND DELAYS TO INCREASE UNLESS PLANNING PORTAL IS FIXED

The association representing private and public Registered Certifiers in NSW is warning that issues with the new Planning Portal will lead to increased housing construction costs and delays unless they are addressed.

The Association of Australian Certifiers (AAC) is urging the NSW Government to suspend the operation of the Planning Portal and fix the issues plaguing the platform.

“The Planning Portal is a massive failure, which is adding significant red tape and administrative burden to the entire planning process,” AAC CEO Jill Brookfield said.

“The public will ultimately pay the price for this clunky system through higher housing construction costs and unnecessary delays.

“The system is creating confusion amongst applicants who are just trying to get homes built and confusion amongst practitioners in the industry.

“Despite constant feedback provided to the Government on a range of issues, the Department of Planning has failed to adequately address them.

“The system has been plagued by technical glitches and unnecessary red tape and duplications, and the Government should suspend its operation until these issues are fixed.”

On top of basic technical glitches, the Portal operates without any meaningful understanding of relevant legislative and regulatory obligations.

The Portal also ignores the fact that industry has developed mature systems to manage these application and appointment processes, and this new approach does not speak to these existing systems in any intuitive way.

This burden is already leading firms to have to employ additional administrative staff just to manage the Portal.

“In its current form, the Portal makes a mockery of the NSW Government’s commitment to reduce unnecessary regulatory imposts on businesses,” Ms Brookfield said.

“We are also extremely disappointed that whatever consultation has occurred with industry appears to have either been completely inadequate or simply ignored.

“The mandatory use of the system must be immediately suspended, and the Department needs to get its house in order and deliver a workable Portal.”

A detailed breakdown of issues with the Portal can be found [here](#).

To find out more about the Association of Australian Certifiers, visit: www.certifiers.net.au

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