

15 July 2021

The Hon Rob Stokes MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Via email: office@stokes.minister.nsw.gov.au

Dear Minister

RE: Local council Planning Portal requirements and APIs

We write regarding a matter of urgency relating to the operation of the Planning Portal.

Our members, both employed in local government and in private practice, are experiencing several issues with the Portal, which are leading to unnecessary delays for the public and the potential inability to comply with regulatory requirements.

Firstly, some local councils, most notably Inner West Council, are currently not accepting development applications and certificate registrations through the Portal, despite regulatory requirement under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*) that a certifier must lodge certificates via the Planning Portal.

This is causing significant issues for registered certifiers who through no fault of their own are left unable to comply with the Regulation, because of the actions, or inactions, of some local councils.

Secondly, and potentially related to the first issue, several local councils are experiencing significant delays caused by Application Programming Interface (API) issues with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's digital services team.


It is extremely frustrating that despite the Regulation mandating the use of the Portal from 1 July 2021, some councils are still experiencing these API issues with the Department.

I respectfully ask that these matters be addressed as a matter of urgency as they are having significant detrimental impacts on the operation of the NSW planning system, relevant stakeholders like registered certifiers and ultimately the public.

To discuss this matter further, do not hesitate to contact me on 0431 082 259.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Jill Brookfield
Chief Executive Officer