



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*Friday, 23 July 2021*

### **FLAWED PLANNING PORTAL SLAMMED BY MID COAST CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS**

Registered certifiers across the Mid Coast region have slammed the NSW Government's Planning Portal as an archaic system leading to delays and higher costs for local homeowners.

The technical issues plaguing the Portal are adding massive amounts of duplication and unnecessary red tape, which is delaying the approval process and ultimately delaying homeowners from being able to move into their new homes.

Paula Doherty, a spokesperson for Taree-based registered certifiers River City Certifiers, said, "the Planning Portal was taking the planning system backwards."

"The Portal is sub-standard, archaic and simply should not be in use.

"It is unnecessarily duplicating established systems and is plagued with technical glitches, which is frustrating for all users and discourages "one-off" users who cannot understand the terminology and are unable to navigate the unfriendly software platform.

"Additionally, the NSW Government has whacked on a new levy to pay for it which is leading to higher costs for families throughout the Mid Coast region.

"We have raised these matters with the NSW Government, but to date, they have been slow to act."

"Despite the Planning Minister's claims that the system will "reduce timeframes and maintain business continuity during Covid-19", it is having the complete opposite effect."

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 adding significant red tape and administrative burden to the entire planning process," AAC CEO Jill Brookfield said.

"Our members across regional NSW are telling us daily, that the Portal is making life harder for their regional small businesses and their clients."

"Many of these people are just trying to get their house built or make minor alterations and are hitting a brick wall."

"Despite constant feedback provided to the Government on a range of issues, the Barilaro-Berejiklian Government 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.

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

To find out more about the Association of Australian Certifiers, visit: [www.certifiers.net.au](http://www.certifiers.net.au)

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