



Kevin Anderson
Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation

MEDIA RELEASE

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PLANS UNVEILED FOR THE FUTURE OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

Dodgy developments will be a thing of the past under NSW Government plans that will see the implementation of ratings systems for professionals in the building industry and strong new powers to prevent occupation certificates from being issued on suspect developments.

The new rating system will help the building regulator determine who the risky players are in the industry and prevent dodgy apartments from being sold to unsuspecting buyers.

The changes form part of the NSW Building Commissioner's work plan which, for the first time, outlines publicly how the government plans to overhaul the building and construction industry in NSW under Six Reform Pillars.

Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation Kevin Anderson said the reforms will improve transparency, accountability and quality of work within the industry.

"These reforms are a complete game changer for consumers, the government and the building industry as a whole," Mr Anderson said.

"Simply put, customers need better built buildings, and our reforms will deliver that. Anyone who doesn't want to get on board with that concept will get left behind."

The six reform pillars cover legislation and regulations changes, ratings systems, improving skills within the industry, ensuring contracts help meet standards, digitising the industry and establishing NSW as a leader in modern construction methods.

NSW Building Commissioner, David Chandler said the old days of being reactionary to problems in the industry can't continue.

"The government has a great deal of resources available, including inspectors, which is why we need to make sure we're using those resources in the best way possible to protect consumers from major defects," Mr Chandler said.

Mr Anderson said passing the Design and Building Practitioners Bill, which is currently held up in the NSW Upper House, is crucial to the progression of building reforms.

"We're asking the opposition and the cross bench to put consumers ahead of politics and let us get on with the building reforms, every day these reforms are delayed is another day homeowners go without the necessary protections," Mr Anderson said.

The NSW Upper House will resume debate on the Design and Building Practitioners Bill in the last week of February.

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SIX PILLARS OF REFORM

To help streamline the reform process, the government has established six specialised work streams, or 'Pillars'.

By establishing the Six Reform Pillars we can ensure people with specialised knowledge and skills in each of the reform areas can remain focussed on their expertise. It also means that several projects can be worked on simultaneously to expedite the delivery of the reforms.

The Six Reform Pillars will not be driven by government alone. Each of the Pillars will be underpinned by its own working group, made up of professionals with lived knowledge and experience in the subject before them.

To maximise the impact of the reforms, we need to ensure that the right people are at the table when decisions are made.

The Six Reform Pillars are further explained below.

Pillar	Actions	Outcomes
 Building a better regulatory framework	Implementing legislation and regulation and transforming the focus of the regulator	Ensure that NSW has a strong customer focussed regulatory framework
 Building ratings systems	Work with ratings agencies, insurers and financiers to assist in better selection of industry participants	Move away from one-size-fits-all participant recognition and better identify risky players
 Building skills and capabilities	Improve accreditation of construction related programs through improved standard modules	Shared minimum learning content and open source resources for all institutions
 Building better procurement methods	Establish clear standards for engagement and outputs	Viable risk allocation and performance accountability
 Building a digital future	Digitise the NSW Building Industry and move away from analogue record keeping	Shared industry wide platforms that build confidence
 Building the reputation for quality research	Evidence based approach to accessing and closing the gap via case studies and other research	Baseline and measurement against our ability to improve confidence in the industry