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Attention New South Wales Media

PEAK STRATA BODY APPLAUDS NSW GOVERNMENT FOR SWEEPING NEW POWERS TO BRING CONFIDENCE BACK TO THE BUILDING INDUSTRY

RUBBER HITS THE ROAD ON REFORM

The multi-billion dollar strata sector in New South Wales is calling on the State's Building Commissioner to stay the course in the way he applies new powers to clean up the State's building industry and in holding to account building industry cowboys.

The strata sector says the building industry needs a good clean out and it has voiced full confidence in the office of Building Commissioner.

It says Commissioner David Chandler now has the regulatory muscle to get things done and major reform within the building sector is long overdue.

The building industry top performers also need to be highlighted and the cream rise to the surface.

It's been a productive week for the building industry and Government with the passing of the *Design and Building Practitioners Bill 2019* yesterday; and the introduction of the *Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement Powers) Bill 2020* to parliament.

The passing of the Bill is a huge step forward in the rebuilding the construction sector into a transparent, accountable, customer-centric industry that consumers deserve. The introduction of new compliance and enforcement powers also serves as a stark wake-up call to the dodgy builders and developers who have plagued New South Wales for too long.

The peak body representing an estimated two million strata dwellers in New South Wales has applauded both the State Government and Opposition for passing the *Building Practitioners Bill 2019* yesterday and hope that the *Residential Apartment Buildings (Compliance and Enforcement Powers) Bill 2020* passes.

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Strata Community Association (NSW) State President, Chris Duggan, says the reform and proposed powers for the Building Commissioner is historic and a huge step forward for New South Wales.

"These reforms are long overdue and on behalf of our Association which oversees the interests of the \$400billion apartment and strata sector in NSW, we say thank you to Minister for Better Regulation, Kevin Anderson and Commissioner Chandler.

"Combined, these two Bills put the interests of consumers first and show that the Government is serious about lifting the standard of work across the building and construction sector.

"It also puts dodgy builders and developers on notice," Mr Duggan said.

The NSW building regulator will have sweeping new powers to withhold occupation certificates for apartment and other buildings that are not up to standard, denying developers the ability to settle their projects, under new laws passing Parliament.

Mr Duggan says that the ability of the regulator to prevent settlement (the point of profit for developers), is unprecedented and beckons a major change in Australia's commercial development industry.

"In my opinion, these reforms push NSW ahead of other states in the race to beef up regulation of an industry notorious for poor oversight and past systemic failings.

"SCA (NSW) are pleased that these Bills have been collaboratively developed through extensive consultation with industry stakeholders such as us, and the public to ensure that the reforms were comprehensive and addressed core issues.

"We now have a leading system of design and building regulation that will deliver well-constructed buildings into the future," Mr Duggan said.

The two pieces of legislation forms one part of the NSW Government's comprehensive six-part reform agenda to lift standards and accountability in the building sector.

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About Strata Community Association

Strata Community Association (NSW) is the peak industry body for Strata and Community Title Management in New South Wales. Membership includes strata managers, support staff, committee members and suppliers of products and services to the industry. SCA (NSW) has in excess of 3,000 members who help oversee, advise or manage a combined property portfolio with an estimated replacement value of over \$400 Billion. SCA (NSW) proudly fulfils the dual roles of a professional institute and consumer advocate.

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