

30 January 2020

The Hon Alex Greenwich, MP
Chair
NSW Legislative Assembly Committee
on Environment and Planning
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By email: environmentplanning@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Alex

The Owners Corporation Network of Australia Limited (OCN) is the only consumer organisation whose sole mission is to advocate on behalf of residential strata owners. This is the submission of the OCN to the Inquiry into the Professional Engineers Registration Bill 2019.

The protection of consumers through the delivery of high quality, sustainable homes is of paramount public importance.

In NSW, urban consolidation has been a goal of successive Governments resulting in a rapid expansion of the residential strata sector. The committee is already aware of the failures in the regulatory system and in the construction industry which has led to systemic defects in high rise apartment buildings. The emphasis on increasingly tall and more complex apartment buildings to house a growing population demands that only the most suitably qualified professionals are permitted to undertake this work.

The OCN fully supports the registration and regulation of engineers, along with other building industry professions, to ensure the NSW regulatory system is comprehensive, and buildings are safe and fit for purpose. It is unlikely that the loss of public confidence in the apartment market will be reversed until comprehensive regulation of the industry is carried out.

The importance of a nationally consistent framework to the registration and regulation of the buildings professions cannot be overstated. The registration and regulation of engineers should be embraced nationally to prevent substandard operators moving across borders. We understand that there is already a model in place in Queensland, which could be easily replicated.

Yours sincerely



Karen Stiles
Executive Officer

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