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STREAMLINED BUILDING CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

A new single accreditation system for building certifiers, which is expected to give families greater confidence when looking to construct a home, comes into force today.

 NSW Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the bringing together of council and private certifiers in a single accreditation system is a significant step in raising the profile of the building surveying profession and recognising its importance in achieving better quality buildings.

“From today, council certifiers will face the same set of rules as their private sector counterparts,” the Minister said.

These include the same:

- Code of conduct;
- Disciplinary action, including potential loss of accreditation;
- Audit process;
- Public complaint system through the Building Professionals Board; and
- Increased opportunities for professional development.

The journey to a single accreditation system for certifiers began in 2002 with the recommendation of the Campbell Inquiry that governments increase their role in regulating builders and others in the building industry.

Responding to the above and also to a NSW inquiry into the planning system, the State Government decided to expand the system to include council accredited certifiers.

Mr Kelly said the new system, introduced by the Building Professionals Board, categorizes building surveyors based on qualifications and experience in certifying different types of structures.

“The Board carried out an extensive consultation program with councils over the past 12 months to ensure the system of accreditation established works for councils and, more importantly, their communities,” the Minister said.

“Councils have responded well to the accreditation reforms and, as of today, there are more than 800 council officers ready to carry out certification work.

“This great result has been achieved in just over six months.

“Consumers will have greater confidence that work certified by council building surveyors meets national building standards.”