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**Share your views on certification and building laws**

The community will be able to have its say on an important aspect of building or renovating a home, with an independent and comprehensive review of private and council certifiers now underway.

A Discussion Paper has been released with Community consultation sessions for the independent review of the *Building Professionals Act* start across the State this month, a spokesperson for the Department of Planning and Environment said.

This Act covers the accreditation of certifiers, who work independently or for councils, assessing and certifying housing, buildings or subdivisions, and other specialist works within developments.

The spokesperson said the review provided an opportunity for the community and stakeholders to get involved in reforming certification and building regulation laws.

“The laws governing certification in NSW have not been reviewed for almost a decade and so it’s time we take a good look at the system to see if it is adequately serving property owners, the community, councils and developers,” the spokesperson said.

“The review will look at whether the certification and building regulation system is functioning as well as it should and suggest recommendations for improvement.

“While private certification cuts red tape and allows property owners to complete construction faster, we need to ensure corners aren’t being cut or rules broken.

“We also need to ensure certifiers are responding to community needs quickly and not adding to congestion in the system.

“That’s why its important stakeholders get hold of the Discussions Paper so we hear from a range of people with a range of experiences of this crucial aspect of the planning system.”

The spokesperson said the consultation schedule was planned to ensure any interested parties could have their say wherever they lived.

“People can choose to attend a round-table public forum at one of eight locations around NSW, or have their say via an online survey or by making a formal submission by email or post.

“The Discussion Paper outlining some of the issues and will be a useful starting point for interested community members and stakeholders.”
The review is headed by former head of the NSW Treasury, Michael Lambert. Submissions to the Review close 12 June.

To read the Discussion Paper or register for a forum, visit bpb.nsw.gov.au/building-professionals-act-review

The public consultation events are planned for:

- 12 May Dubbo
- 14 May Batemans Bay
- 15 May Tamworth
- 20 May Ballina
- 21 May Sydney
- 27 May Wagga Wagga
- 1 June Wollongong
- 2 June Newcastle; and
- 5 June Penrith

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