

Tuesday, 17 November 2020

BUDGET FUNDS LANDMARK BUILDING REFORMS

The NSW Government will invest \$27 million over four years in the 2020-21 NSW Budget to extend the work of the Office of the Building Commissioner.

Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation Kevin Anderson said the funding will drive the transformation of the building and construction sector, assisting NSW's economic recovery.

"Over the past year the NSW Government has delivered tough new laws to make developers more accountable, created a new digital platform to help fill skills gaps across the industry and enhanced the capabilities of the building regulator so it can focus on the risky players, but our work is far from over," Mr Anderson said.

"In the past year we have passed legislation that will change the face of the State's building and construction sector. These reforms are future-proofing the building and construction sector and will play an instrumental role in rebuilding the NSW economy post-pandemic."

"We are now embarking on a digital revolution of what is one of NSW's last remaining analogue industries."

"NSW Government funding will put digital and technological innovation at the heart of the construction sector, and over the next 12 months we will be implementing a range of ePlanning and capability building initiatives that will bring the sector into the 21st Century."

As part of the NSW Liberals & Nationals' commitment to a transparent, accountable, customer-centric sector, \$15 million over four years will be allocated to clamp down on substandard residential apartment buildings by increasing the number of dedicated compliance officers.

"We will be putting more boots on the ground to prevent buildings with serious defects going on the market," Mr Anderson said.

"We will have an army of inspectors out in the field working to ensure that consumers can feel confident when making the biggest investment of their life."

The NSW Government's building reforms will play a critical role in supporting the building and construction sector rebuild from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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