

**Labor**

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**YASMIN CATLEY MP  
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**NSW GOVERNMENT FAILURE TO REGULATE ENGINEERS LEAVES US  
ALL AT RISK**

The failure of the Liberal State Government to register and regulate engineers in New South Wales leaves homeowners and residents at risk as rogue engineers continue to avoid scrutiny due to the complete absence of any regulatory framework or professional standards.

New South Wales is the only major state to allow anyone to call themselves an engineer. After a litany of major failures in high rise apartments, the Berejiklian Government was dragged kicking and screaming to a position on engineers registration, but almost 9 months after an Act was passed in Parliament requiring a registration scheme, there is still nothing in place to ensure engineers are qualified, skilled and competent.

“We can’t have confidence in this sector until all engineers are registered and

regulated, but the State Government refuses to implement such a scheme. We remain the only state where cowboy operators can call themselves an engineer and just sign off on plans or designs willy-nilly,” Labor’s Shadow Minister for Building Reform, Yasmin Catley MP said.

At an Estimates hearing today in State Parliament, the Minister for Better Regulation, Kevin Anderson, said that he was working on a registration scheme for engineers working only on high-rise residential apartment buildings, leaving a huge gap in the engineering services sector for construction of commercial buildings, houses, infrastructure as well as electrical, fire safety and mechanical engineering.

“We have been telling the Government for many years that the lack of regulation in New South Wales is a danger to people’s lives and livelihoods, but this Minister is paralysed by inaction,” Ms Catley said.

Under sustained questioning at Estimates today, the Minister claimed that ensuring high professional standards was fundamentally not the responsibility of Government:

*“Engineers should commit to a professional standards scheme which will lift the quality, lift their service and lift their conduct and we encourage Engineers Australia to continue work with the professional standards association to work up their professional standards scheme which will prevent those issues that you’re talking about”*

– Kevin Anderson MP, 5 March 2020

“These comments just prove that Kevin Anderson will just keep dithering and delaying. We have had the Opal Tower disaster, the Mascot Tower fiasco, we have buildings collapsing in Bondi, the list of failures goes on and on,” Ms Catley said.

“We need an engineers registration scheme for all engineering disciplines to be implemented as a matter of urgency. Minister Anderson needs to hurry up or get out of the way,” she said.

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