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17 January 2017

Ms Carolyn McNally
Secretary
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms McNally,

Fire Safety Changes to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000

I would like to provide the following comments in relation to the proposed amendments to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 dealing with the issue of fire safety in the design, construction and approval of new buildings.

We have had an opportunity to consider the consultation draft regulation (*Environmental Planning and Assessment (Fire Safety and Building Certification Regulation 2017)*) and the associated commentary paper released for consultation in December 2016. HIA supports the changes proposed in principle. The key to the amendments will be the implementation of a framework for fire safety professionals. HIA has expressed support for an expansion of the network of building professionals that building certifiers may rely upon when undertaking their certification functions for many years. These changes reflect appropriate steps, particularly in the approval process for construction certificates, which will reduce uncertainty for applicants and building certifiers.

HIA does not believe these regulations should commence until the necessary changes to recognise other building professionals have also been finalised. This is critical to give legal certainty to building certifiers and should appropriately reflect the separate responsibilities of each professional in the design and construction process.

HIA supports changes which deliver both certainty and improved practices to the industry and we appreciate the opportunity to continue working with the Government to implement these reforms.

Should you require any further information in relation to these amendments please contact Troy Loveday, Assistant Director, Residential Development and Planning, on (02) 9978 3342 or t.loveday@hia.com.au

Yours sincerely
HOUSING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

David Bare
Executive Director – NSW