

31 January 2017

NSW Planning & Environment  
23-33 Bridge Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

### **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT REGULATION 2000**

The Owners Corporation Network of Australia Limited (OCN) is the peak consumer body representing residential strata and community title owners and residents.

Strata is the fastest growing form of residential property ownership in Australia. Over half the new dwellings to be built in our metropolitan areas over the next decades will be strata titled. The growth of this sector raises increasingly important questions over property ownership and governance.<sup>1</sup>

OCN is acutely aware of the deplorable standard of fire safety system installation and inspections, particularly in vulnerable high-rise buildings, which poses a serious life safety risk to residents and visitors, and has eagerly participated in the Ministerial roundtables that brought about this draft.

As the key consumer voice, OCN welcomes the proposed reforms in the public consultation draft *Environmental Planning & Assessment Amendment (Fire Safety & Building Certification) Regulation 2017*. With the caveat that submissions by the two peak industry bodies, Fire Protection Association Australia and the Association of Accredited Certifiers, be incorporated when finalising this Regulation to ensure meaningful regulatory change.

It is rare to have such overwhelming support for legislative reforms which will require more industry accountability, so NSW Planning has a unique opportunity to deliver good public policy to stakeholders who are clamouring for it to come into effect. OCN looks forward to the early introduction of this, the first of a series of reforms required to ensure long overdue life safety protections in this State.

Sincerely  
Karen Stiles  
Executive Officer

<sup>1</sup> *City Futures Research Centre 'Strata Data' Issue 4, October 2011*

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