

21 March 2019

Cr Peter M Cavanagh
Mayor
Woollahra Municipal Council

Sent via: Patricia.Vella@woollahra.nsw.gov.au

Dear Peter

I refer to your letter requesting my support for the February 2018 *Building Confidence – Improving the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement systems for the building and construction industry* by Peter Shergold and Bronwyn Weir.

I strongly support the recommendations of the report and if re-elected will pursue the implementation of state based measures. I am particularly concerned that new oversight and audit powers are introduced to ensure good building practices are engaged throughout a development and problems are detected and rectified early on.

Over 70 per cent of the Sydney electorate lives in apartments and my constituents regularly report building defects that have left their homes unsafe and require significant funds to fix. Existing pathways to get redress from builders and developers have been subject to successive erosions and now it is almost impossible to get builders and developers to fix problems other than when a building is likely to collapse. I am also concerned that the new defects bond will provide little relief because of requirements for owners to negotiate with developers on the amount of bond to be released.

While I support the Shergold and Weir report, it will only address future building practices and more needs to be done to ensure accountability and protect owners and residents of homes already built. I have called for a special commission of inquiry so that owners, residents, their advocates and stakeholders can present their experiences with defects, to help establish needed reform for existing homes.

I hope this information assists.

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney

