

MEDIA RELEASE

26th July 2022

David Chandler's resignation as Building Commissioner - a massive loss for NSW

Urban Taskforce Australia CEO, Tom Forrest, today said the resignation of David Chandler from his role as the NSW Building Commissioner is a massive loss for the construction industry in this State.

"David Chandler is a formidable figure who has vast experience in the construction sector. He has single mindedly devoted himself to the goal of eliminating poor developers, builders and PCAs from the apartment building marketplace in this state. Further, he has overseen the establishment of two new Acts of law which, for the first time, requires all key consultants to insured and all involved in the construction to be held accountable for the building they construct, as well as establishing the Office of the Building Commissioner and the powers to undertake Occupations Certificate Audits", Mr Forrest said.

"Urban Taskforce has not agreed with everything David Chandler has done. But one thing is for sure: whenever we had an issue, he was always willing to take the call, engage in debate, and take seriously any issue raised.

"David Chandler has won the respect of the property construction and development sector and this has been key to his success. He has also drawn praise from Owners Corporations and political leaders, ranging from Gladys Berejiklian to David Shoebridge (and everyone in between). Such was the confidence the NSW Parliament had in Mr Chandler its members unanimously gave the Building Commissioner additional powers that he had not even asked for.

"Mr Chandler has been central to plugging the gaping hole created by the NSW Parliament when they passed a law which made builders and developers accountable for 10 years (prospective and retrospective) for any major defect, without first ensuring that there was an insurance product available to cover that liability. Mr Chandler has driven the Department of Fair Trading to establish the rules and governance processes for such an insurance product. However, to date, there is no insurance product available which covers the obligations under the RAB Act to cover consumers if a builder or developer goes broke.

"Mr Chandler has driven the development of a rating system for builders and developers to try to build confidence in the property and construction sector. While Urban Taskforce has always been concerned about having only one private sector company undertake these ratings, Mr Chandler's vision of creating confidence in the community to restore off the plan sales in this critical sector is first class.

"Mr Chandler has completely reversed the focus of the inspectorate of the Department of Fair Trading. Rather than focussing 90% of their time trying to fix problems after they have been occupied, David Chandler has overseen a transformation which now sees 90% of the inspection effort focussed on major defects prior to the occupation of the building.

"I have no doubt the NSW property development and construction sector, along with buyers of newly built apartments, are better off for the effort and dedication of David Chandler.

"I am sure that Mr Chandler will work each and every day until his departure at the end of November. The Minister and the NSW Cabinet would be wise to listen to every word he has to say before that date", Mr Forrest said.

The Urban Taskforce Australia is a property development industry group, representing Australia's most prominent property developers and equity financiers.

Media Enquires: Tom Forrest, Chief Executive Officer: 0429 460 863

Follow us on:

