



Dear fellow construction practitioner

### **Construct NSW – Survey on Digitalisation of Construction Industry**

My name is David Chandler OAM and I am the NSW Building Commissioner. I need your help. Hopefully you will be aware of my appointment and the recent changes to legislation that will affect the way multi-unit residential buildings may be undertaken in NSW. A link to the *Design and Building Practitioners Act 2020* is provided [here](#) for your convenience.

Over the next year our industry will be challenged to become more customer facing to re-build consumer confidence in the buildings that we design and build. We therefore need to prepare our NSW practitioners for the commencement of the new legislation. This is a unique opportunity for all of us to look ahead and envisage the capabilities that a modern construction industry should have in just a few years from now. We need to create an industry that is not only attractive to our customers, it must also become an industry of first choice for future practitioners. These practitioners must be shown the amazing careers and opportunities that are ahead.

Importantly, we must not leave key players behind as we embark on the industry transformation journey that the Office of Building Commissioner (OBC) will lead, known as Construct NSW. Our industry is mostly made up of small and medium sized enterprises. They are the engine room of our industry and economy. It is essential that they are represented in our planning.

Part of this work will involve preparing our industry to engage and benefit from the digital economy that now defines the way we all communicate and transact these days. For example, the new legislation will require design and building practitioners to adopt digital design capabilities. This requires our OBC team to be mindful of the baseline capabilities you all have now and how we may work together to progressively build and raise industry wide digital capabilities over time. We must embrace new ways of working, procuring, constructing and assuring the buildings that we make.

From 1 July 2021, **all design and as-built drawings will be required to be declared in a digital format** by design practitioners and building practitioners respectively for Class 2 buildings. To assist your team with this transition and to set a viable baseline standard, we want to understand the level of digitalisation of design and as-built drawings that is currently being used by you.

Whether you are a design practitioner preparing design drawings, or a building practitioner preparing as-built drawings, your contribution to a baseline study is vitally important to us.

With this in mind, the OBC has appointed Professor Srinath Perera and his team at the Centre for Smart Modern Construction, Western Sydney University to conduct this study. They aim to collect your responses and analyse the survey data that we seek to be completed. The results will be published with de-identified data, ensuring that your data remains confidential and your privacy is always protected.

Our goals from this study are:

- To set a practical and informed standard for declared design and declared as-built drawing submissions once the *Design and Building Practitioners Act 2020* commences on 1 July 2021.
- To set a standard that reflects where small and medium sized design and building practitioners capability currently rests.
- To identify any gaps in skills and capabilities.

Your input to this study is important, to enable us to have an accurate understanding of the current capability in the industry to support the transition to a digital environment going forward.

Please complete this [link](#) by 21 August 2020 to register and give consent to participate in the full detailed survey to be circulated in September 2020. This survey is supported by the following industry associations who have helped with the design and methods for this research project.

They include:

- Master Builders Association of NSW
- Housing Industry Association
- Australian Institute of Architects
- Association of Consulting Architects
- Engineers Australia
- Building Designers Association of Australia

Please feel free to contact your association or Professor Srinath Perera's team at [Marini.Sam@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:Marini.Sam@westernsydney.edu.au) if you need assistance. I thank you in anticipation of your assistance with this important research.

Yours sincerely



**David Chandler OAM**  
**Building Commissioner**