



MEDIA RELEASE

Keep building reform proposals intact, urges LGNZ

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Local Government New Zealand welcomes proposed reforms to the Building Act but warns against cherry picking some of the proposals because these parts may be easier to implement.

LGNZ regulatory spokesperson Dianne Hale says the current law is too complex, costly and prescriptive.

“This reform is long awaited, but it’s critical the components to achieving quality buildings are advanced together - they will not work in isolation and we want the whole package advanced, not just the easy bits.

“Changes that streamline building consent process, give consumers more rights and make builders more accountable for their workmanship are welcome.

“We particularly endorse a fresh look at responsibilities and accountabilities. Ratepayers have paid for the incompetence of builders for too long, and these proposals put more responsibility on builders, manufacturers and designers.

“A big issue for councils is proportionate liability. Currently councils pay an unfair share of the costs of incompetence when there’s a problem with a building project. LGNZ is disappointed the Government is not willing to look at this issue.

“We are working with councils to develop options for local government’s future role in providing building services.

“We encourage the Government to deliver a regulatory system which is fair and equitable.”

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