
From: Kym Rowland
Sent: Wednesday, 27 November 2019 10:57 AM
To: DPTI.PDBuildingBranch@sa.gov.au
Cc: ministerknoll@sa.gov.au
Subject: Inspection Policies Practice Direction comments

Good morning,

I am responding to the invitation to comment on the draft Inspection Policies Practice Direction.

I am pleased that inspections are gaining importance in the minds of the Department, the main issue I see is the difficulties councils are having getting staff and therefore the lack of resources available to them to meet the inspection targets. I frequently see this first hand in my current role where I provide support as a consulting accredited professional to a number of councils around the state who are having such difficulties.

Planning SA may wish to consider including an appropriate fee structure in the legislation to assist councils in resourcing the requirements but this will only work if they can find appropriate staff.

One solution to the resourcing issue may be allow the applicant to engage an accredited professional/private building surveyor to undertake the inspections and provide a report accompanied photographic evidence, however I realise that the department does not consider this appropriate.

I have to admit it disappoints me that the Planning SA are reportedly of the opinion private accredited professionals cannot be trusted to undertake this role based on the building rules consent issues Planning SA have with some private certifiers. I firmly believe if Planning SA had not failed in its responsibility to manage the Development Act auditing process adequately these issues would have been controlled years ago. I also feel this lack of accountability by state and territory governments is an issue across Australia and has been a significant factor in the current PI insurance issues currently being faced by reputable private practitioners.

Another solution to the local government resourcing issues is for SA Government to continue to handle the process as they have in the past with the result most private accredited professionals will be unable to obtain PI insurance and will be looking for work in local government.

If I sound a little bitter it is because after more than 35 years in building control and having worked in 5 jurisdictions around Australia I firmly believe the in administration of building control in our state is not taken seriously by Planning SA and respect for the practitioners appears to be at an all-time low.

I am happy to discuss my opinions further if you require clarification or further detail.

Regards

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Director



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