



the voice of the industry

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

22 February 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

Report on Opal Tower Supports Existing Reform Proposals

“The good news in the final report into the Opal Tower investigation released today is that the building is structurally sound and that these types of structural issues are rare,” said David Bare, HIA Executive Director NSW.

“The Professors of Engineering whom the NSW Government commissioned to complete an investigation into the structural issues at Opal Tower have stated that they, *‘Consider the building is overall structurally sound and the localized damage to the building can be rectified to ensure the building is compliant with the National Construction Code.’*

“They also noted *‘that this was a very rare occurrence and we are confident in the strength of the National Construction Code and Australian building standards in terms of building safety.’*”

“This is an important point” Mr Bare said, “it underscores that we can have confidence in the integrity of the vast majority of buildings constructed”.

“The report makes several recommendations to avoid a similar situation occurring in the future including measures which essentially boil down to greater accountability on professionals involved with the design of buildings.”

“HIA supports the registration of engineers, independent third party review of certain key parts of a building designs and critical stage inspections for major construction projects” said Mr Bare. “HIA looks forward to working with the NSW Government in the practical implementation of these recommendations” he concluded.

“It should also be noted that most of the recommendations made overlap recommendations made by Professor Shergold and Bronwyn Weir in the *Building Confidence* report released in 2018.

“The NSW Government has already committed to implementing most of the recommendations in the *Building Confidence* report and, at the recent Building Ministers Forum committed to release its plan on how these recommendations would be implemented.

“HIA looks forward to reviewing the implementation plan when it is released and working with Government to ensure the practical implementation of the recommendations” concluded Mr Bare.

Media contact: David Bare, Executive Director NSW 0418 924 127
Brad Armitage, Assistant Director Planning and Building 0406 397 181