

Fire Australia Conference

Fire safety and fire safety reform

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NSW Building Commissioner

15 May 2025



Our key priorities



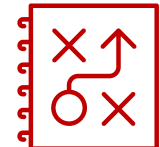
Support the Building Bills progress to Parliament, delivering stronger regulation, industry productivity, and consumer protection



Continue to support the NSW Government's National Housing Accord targets by increasing compliance and quality



Encourage further education and engagement with industry



Set clear expectations for industry and the community on 'what good looks like'

Industry challenges



Regulated Designs

Continue to show insufficient integration between different design practitioners



Standards

Regulated designs continue to have insufficient details to demonstrate compliance with the relevant Standard(s)



Non-compliance

Required documents often not lodged in the approved way



Education

New ConstructNSW courses continue to be released

FRNSW consultation process released and currently on discount

What is changing?

The consolidation of multiple building laws into new, easy to read legislation

Building Bill

- Introduction of a plain English Building Act
- Modernise and consolidate building legislation

Building Compliance & Enforcement Bill

- Suite of enforcement and compliance tools
- Aims to improve the quality of construction
- Regulatory approach that supports industry education

Fire safety framework

- Proposing improvements to the fire safety regulation framework
- Embed fire safety certification documents within a streamlined building approvals and certification system in the Building Bill
- Further consultation in 2025 and 2026 with the fire protection industry



Deferral of AS1851



More work
needed for the
implementation of
AS1851



Mandatory
compliance with
AS1851 was
deferred by 12
months to 13
February 2026.



Accredited
practitioner
certification for
fire safety
certificates was
deferred by 24
months to 13
February 2027



BCNSW will
progress separate
discussions on
practitioner
licensing/
accreditation
through the
development of
the Building Bill

Expectation of the fire protection industry

Ensuring practitioners
are competent
& trustworthy
to provide critical
building element

Observing audit
results in relation to
design & construction
of fire systems

Collaboration –
working together
to ensure
robust regulation

Working with Industry

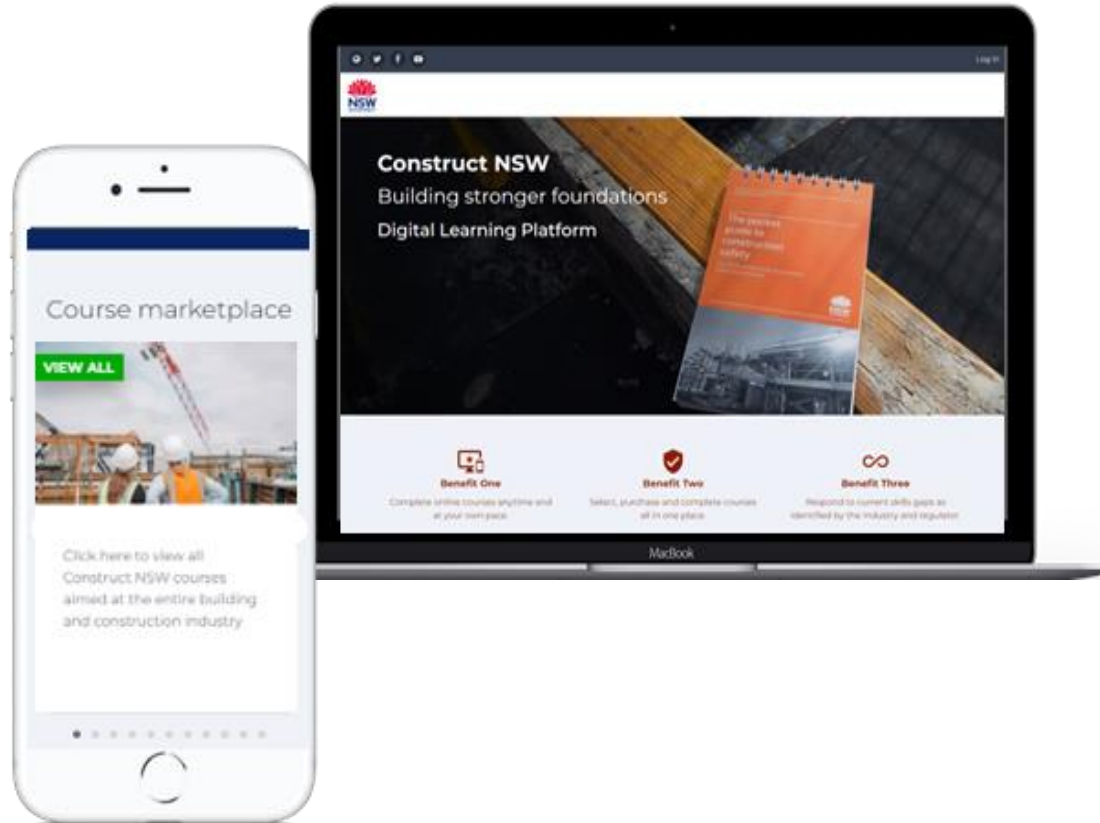
NSW Fire Safety Industry Reference Group (NSWFSIRG)

Assist with implementation of key reforms impacting the sector (e.g. AS1851)

Assist in delivery of guidance, education and training materials

Approx. 50 participants across 20+ associations

Upskilling industry



- Two courses in development:
 - Passive Fire Construction
 - Regulated Design – Best Practice (Architecture)
- Courses ready late 2025.

Questions & Answers

