

ACRA NSW

A MESSAGE FROM THE NSW PRESIDENT - GRAHAME VILE

2024 is well and truly here and we are racing to the end of March. It is good to be issuing this update. Since Deb and I last wrote, ACRA has seen a lot of unexpected change.

The Board has been working hard, and we especially acknowledge our newly appointed President, Karen Amery of SIKA.



Karen is ably leading us through this very challenging time of change, and we are seeing the light at the other end of the tunnel. Keep an eye out for Karen's national newsletter for updates on what has been achieved. Thank you, Karen, on behalf of us all. Strength through adversity!

The NSW Sub-Committee has met once this year. We have agreed to meet every second month, with the next meeting scheduled for early April.

Our NSW Sub-Committee members are noted on our [web pages](#). At our first meeting of the year, we confirmed office bearer positions. I continue as NSW President, Deb as Vice-President and Adam McGlone as Secretary.

We have two established working groups: the Events team and the Advocacy team.

The Events team is led by Daniel Caruana. Thank you to Cene Jakovljevic; Loukas Hatzigeorgiou; Ramiro Garcez and Chris Stefanovski for putting your hand up to join this working group. The Events team are committed to providing great learning and networking opportunities for our members. Deb provides details about two events later in this newsletter.

The Advocacy Team, formed three years ago, continues to be strong. Deb Lockart is the lead of this team. She is joined by Helen Kowal, Tom MacKay, Peter Johnsson and me. We achieved an enormous amount of work and outcomes for the remedial industry in 2023, and this year we need to bed down these advancements. Deb also talks more about our advocacy work below.

This year all members of the NSW Sub-Committee have committed to making positive contributions. It is appreciated, as there is a lot to do. Additionally, it is important that we provide these opportunities for members to contribute with their diverse skills, so we can further strengthen ACRA and continue to support our NSW members in the remedial industry.

We look forward to working with you throughout 2024. Please get in touch with ideas and suggestions, so we know what interests you and how we might help.

Over to you, Deb.....

A MESSAGE FROM THE NSW VICE PRESIDENT DEBORAH LOCKART

We last caught up just before Christmas. It was nice to meet so many of our NSW members.

In our first newsletter for 2024 we talk about:

- NSW Events
- Advocacy - Remedial-Government consultation
- Planning portal support
- Asbestos training



Events

Our first event will acknowledge the outstanding work of our NSW members by providing an opportunity to share our projects and re-connect with our remedial colleagues. We thank AI Group for their support with our work.

We are asking for expressions of interest for project presentations. Please indicate your interest by 5 April 2024. We will be making direct contact with NSW members to make sure we are organized for this event. See more detail below.

Our second event provides an opportunity for NSW members to hear from SWAAB lawyer, Helen Kowal about The changing legislative landscape and the remedial industry.

Thank you all for being an integral part of our community.



EVENT - NSW Celebration Project presentations and networking 3 May 2024, 3pm-6:30pm

Register now! <https://acrassoc.com.au/event/acra-nsw-celebrating-excellence/>

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming NSW Celebration, an event dedicated to recognizing outstanding achievements by all NSW Members who submitted projects to the ACRA Remedial Industry Excellence Awards 2023 (ACRA Awards).

Join us as we share our projects and learn from those who participated in the ACRA Awards.

A great opportunity for NSW members to learn about project submissions, as you consider the 2025 ACRA Excellence Awards Night!

Don't miss this chance to reconnect with your colleagues and learn more about their projects.

AN INVITATION TO PRESENT to NSW

Our Events team are keen to hear from you if you are interested. Please email info@acrassoc.com.au by 5 April 2024.

We welcome expressions of interest by members who submitted projects to the ACRA Awards, to share your project with ACRA NSW members at our networking event in May 2024.

Your presentation will be 10 minutes long, supported by a PowerPoint presentation.

Why Present?

- Showcase your innovative work to industry professionals, peers, and sponsors.
- Share insights, challenges, and success stories behind your project.

If we receive many expressions of interest, we will prioritise award winners in the first instance. The event has the capacity for up to eight presentations.

If you have any questions or need further information, feel free to reach out.



EVENT - The changing legislative landscape and the remedial industry

21 May 2024, 8am-9:30am

Register [HERE](#).

Hurray, limited tickets ONLY!



This is an outstanding opportunity for ACRA members to hear from ACRA member and lawyer Helen Kowal SWAAB about legislative change and how this is impacting our industry. ACRA is grateful to be working with Helen Kowal, SWAAB lawyers, in her capacity as ACRA NSW Advocacy Committee member, forging change for the remedial building industry.

Helen's presentation will provide insights into the key legislation impacting the strata-remedial building industry. She will provide a lawyer's perspective of the DBP 2020 and the Residential Apartment Buildings Act (2020). Her presentation will also talk about legislative reform and the proposed impacts of the Building Bill 2022, Building Compliance and Enforcement Bill 2022, Strata Schemes Management Act 2015.

It is important that we maintain an awareness of the changing legislative landscape in assuring the future success of our remedial businesses and the industry more broadly.

Helen Kowal shares with ACRA her publication [Strata Snapshot Issue 1](#)

Thank you Helen.

We look forward to seeing you there!

ADVOCACY

Remedial-Government consultation

We moved mountains in 2023 and navigated significant outcomes for the strata-remedial community.

I am honored to be the lead of the Advocacy team and express my sincere appreciation to the team for the heavy lifting over the past 2 years.

The highlights of last year were:

- **Fact Sheet - [Emergency remedial building work](#)**
- **Fact Sheet - [Exempt development](#)**
- **Fact Sheet - [Remedial building work](#)**
- Panel discussion with Matt Press. You can find our presentation [HERE](#).



Panel Discussion
Matt Press joins ACRA's Advocacy Team



What does 2024 look like?

It is important that we continue to share our collective DBP knowledge and experiences with our broader networks. In our day jobs, when applicable, we should be referring our clients to the relevant Fact Sheets (noted above) in communicating how the legislative landscape impacts remedial work.

Please keep sharing your DBP experiences and ideas with us, in supporting our consultation outcomes.

Building Practitioners continue to work with the Planning Portal in the main. Several of us continue to explore the Portal in relation to DA and CDC remedial projects. Many in our industry attended the Portal Training, last year, where I co-presented with the Planning Department about the new "Developer" role. Please get in touch with me, should you have ongoing issues with the portal in relation to DA and CDC related projects. Thank you to the many building practitioners who have shared their experiences, as the shared experiences support our collective knowledge and communication with Government.

[The Building Commission](#) commenced on 1 December 2023. They continue to grow and evolve.

We are hoping to develop a DBP “master class” with the Building Commission for ACRA members.

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure is working to amend the Codes SEPP to incorporate remedial work as exempt development. We continue to liaise with the department about these changes. The changes stem from the Planning Fact Sheet (remedial industry and exempt development) issued last May 2023.

Performance solutions remain a priority to navigate. To be honest we have left this one to “last” because it requires a lot of understanding, communicating and potential legislative change in addressing the issues the strata-remedial industry is facing. Currently as the legislation stands, a performance solution moves the remedial building work to an approval pathway (DA or CDC depending on the project detail). The broader remedial-government consultation process has talked extensively about performance solutions, and late last year we agreed we needed to explore this in more detail. Any changes to the Codes SEPP to consider performance solutions would require a policy investigation first by Government. We have a lot more work to do here.

We are looking forward to our year ahead. It is important you keep in touch with us in sharing your ideas and experiences in supporting our consultation process.

Planning Portal support

I met recently with Planning Portal Experts.

Many ACRA members have attended the Planning Portal online training sessions in 2022 and 2023. You may recall the presenter Metin Izci?

Metin has now established his own consultancy, Planning Portal Experts, with Kea Allerby. Their consultancy provides guidance to navigate the portal in ensuring that you meet your legislative requirements.

Should you need support with the Planning Portal, here is Metin and Kea’s contact
<https://planningportalexperts.com.au/>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – TAFE FREE COURSES

As you may be aware, TAFE is providing various courses free (short term). Construct NSW and TAFE have a free course on asbestos. There are other free courses. Here is the link <https://store.training.tafensw.edu.au/>

This is an excellent opportunity for all practitioners to provide essential training for site staff. On top of this, it is free! Asbestos awareness for remedial practitioners is imperative. Employers have a responsibility to ensure the health and safety of their workers. For employees, you need to participate in WHS in your workplace. Regardless of the employer instructing workers to do this course, all remedial workers should simply do it, literally for one’s own health and longevity.

We look forward to our work together throughout 2024.

More importantly we will see you at our May events!

Regards, NSW Subcommittee

