



Media Release

Thursday, 17 August 2023

Hundreds gather to discuss the future of the building industry

More than 700 building practitioners gathered in Melbourne to hear from industry experts and innovators at the Victorian Building Authority's (VBA) annual Building Surveyors Conference.

Now in its fifth year, it was the first conference to be held in person following the pandemic.

VBA CEO Anna Cronin said the success of the event showed a strong desire for practitioners to learn, share knowledge and discuss ways to improve their industry.

"It was great to see so many at this year's conference, because having discussions and asking questions is critical as we navigate the complex landscape of our rapidly evolving sector," Ms Cronin said.

"We must be at the forefront of emerging trends, while maintaining high standards of compliance and keeping pace with this fast moving industry.

"As co-regulators, we need to work collaboratively to encourage higher standards in our built environment that will benefit all Victorians."

Ms Cronin said the VBA was working toward a new Regulatory Policy Statement that clearly outlines its aims and approaches to regulating Victoria's building and plumbing industries.

"The statement will ensure we are a proactive, responsive, effective and credible regulator.

"We will be consistent, fair and clear, and leave no room for doubt in what we expect from practitioners and industry, and what they can expect for us."

Among the 16 speakers and panellists who presented at the event were Futurist Steve Sammartino, Professor Rebecca Bentley, Dr Nicole Johnston, Dr Tim Law and Cladding Safety Victoria CEO Dan O'Brien, on key topics such as the future of building and how we can improve building health.

State Building Surveyor Andrew Cialini highlighted some key findings from the inspection and document audit programs, as well as how co-regulators can work together for better outcomes.

"As the third line of defence of Victoria's regulatory system, the VBA will continue to work with private and municipal surveyors to monitor compliance and hold those who do the wrong thing to account," Mr Cialini said.

"A key tool in ensuring compliance is education, and our Practitioner Education Series continues to develop and has supported industry by focusing on areas of concern and providing practical insights, evidence-based strategies and useful resources."

Insights gained from the Building Surveyors Conference, including select presentations, will be shared on the VBA website and social media channels.

Media Enquiries:

VBA Media
0417 854 245 or media@vba.vic.gov.au