





# Why Homeowners Should Engage a Building and Construction Lawyer for their Residential Construction?

For most homeowners, building their dream home is the biggest financial investment of their life. Engaging in a residential construction project can be an exciting and rewarding experience. However, it can also be a stressful and daunting process, particularly when things don't go according to plan. This is where building and construction specialist lawyers can help.

# Why a Specialist Building and Construction Lawyer is Better than other Lawyers

When it comes to legal advice for your residential construction project, it's important to choose a lawyer who specialises in construction law. A specialist building and construction lawyer has a deep understanding of the laws and regulations that apply to the building and construction industry, and can provide you with the best advice for your specific situation. A construction lawyer has a wealth of experience applying the building and construction industry laws to a wide variety of circumstances. A specialist in building law can advise on practical steps to mitigate risks and resolve disputes which may not be based on law but results in a better outcome for the homeowner.

A generalist lawyer, on the other hand, may not have the same level of knowledge and experience in construction law, and may not be able to provide you with the same level of expertise.

## What can Building & Construction Lawyers help Owners With?

Specialist building & construction lawyers can help homeowners with a range of issues related to their residential construction project, including:

<u>Contract Review</u>: A construction lawyer can review your construction contract and ensure that it is fair and legally binding. They can also advise you on any potential issues or risks that you may face, and help you to negotiate any changes to the contract. The lawyer can draft special conditions to make the contract reflect the owners intentions and protect the owner's interests.







<u>Building Dispute Advice</u>: If you are experiencing a dispute with your builder or another party involved in your construction project, construction solicitors can provide you with advice on how to resolve the dispute and protect your rights. This includes advising on the application of industry specific legislation, common law that is similar to the facts in dispute, and advising the owner of their legal and practical options so that the owner can make an informed decision.

<u>Legal Representation in NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal</u>: If your dispute cannot be resolved through negotiation, a construction lawyer can represent you in the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, which has the primary jurisdiction for resolving residential disputes in NSW. Building and construction lawyers are often given leave to represent home owners in proceedings before the NCAT.

Court Representation: If your dispute escalates to court because the dispute is outside of the NCAT's Jurisdiction under section 48K of the Home Building Act, a construction lawyer can represent you and provide you with the best legal advice for your case in the local court, District Court, the Supreme Court and other courts.

Advice on the Home Building Compensation Fund (HBCF) Insurance: A special building solicitor can advise owners on whether or not they are eligible to make a HBCF insurance claim and assist with improving their ability to make a claim.

# Applicable Laws to Residential Construction Law

When it comes to residential construction law, there are a number of laws and regulations that apply in New South Wales, including:

<u>The Home Building Act 1989</u>: This Act sets out the legal rights and responsibilities of homeowners and builders, and regulates the building and construction industry in New South Wales.

The Home Building Regulation 2014: These regulations under the Home Building Act 1989 provide further detail on specific areas of the Act, such as contract requirements, dispute resolution, and insurance.

The Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act 1989: This Act regulates the payment of money for building and construction work, and provides a mechanism for resolving disputes about payment.







Sydney-based building and construction lawyers can advise and represent home owners in advancing and defending their rights under the above residential building industry laws.

## Building and construction Lawyers in Sydney

Engaging building and construction lawyers Sydney is an essential step for homeowners embarking on a construction project in Sydney, NSW. Construction Lawyers in Sydney can provide expert advice and representation, help owners navigate the legal complexities of construction, and protect their rights and interests throughout the process from contract to resolving building disputes. Most courts and the Tribunal permit the Sydney courts and Tribunal registries to be the forum for most legal disputes. This is probably because the Sydney registries have the most capacity and most construction law barristers are based in Martin Place in Sydney.

In respect of legal disputes, owners will save the cost of having the solicitor and barrister having to travel to remote registries if matters are managed by the relevant Sydney registry. But for contract review and advice, Sydney construction solicitors can negotiate and draft construction contracts without having to leave their office.

## How Can Contracts Specialist Help?

<u>Contracts Specialist</u> is a specialist building and construction law firm. John Dela Cruz is the principal of the firm and has more than 10 years experience specialising in construction law. Contracts Specialist Solicitors and Attorneys have a large network of industry professionals who assist owners mitigate and resolve disputes in construction law barristers and building expert witnesses in all states and territories throughout Australia.

If you are a home owner and planning a residential construction project in New South Wales, or anywhere in Australia, we can advise you on your legal rights and responsibilities under your construction contract. We can provide you with construction law advice and inform you of options available for your specific situation. We can help you to resolve any building and construction dispute that may arise during your build.

If you are in need of a construction lawyer, contact us today to discuss your specific needs and how we can help you. With our expertise and experience, we will be able to guide you through the process, and ensure that your rights are protected.







We offer a free 15 minutes phone consultation to home owners to explore whether or not we can assist. We aim to add value to all of our clients and be the best construction lawyers. As such, and to avoid disappointment, the exploratory call is to understand if we are a good fit as we do not accept every requested brief.