‘Cureton Review’ offers alternative protections for home buyers and builders

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Home buyers and builders will have a chance to shape government policy after the Northern Territory Government released a review of the residential building industry’s regulations for stakeholder consideration.

Minister for Lands and Planning David Tollner said the ‘Cureton Review’ has been prompted by concerns expressed by consumers and industry about the effectiveness of the Residential Cover Scheme, introduced in January 2013.

“These concerns focused mainly on the assessment of residential builders, scope of cover of fidelity certificates and the protection of other parties in the building supply chain,” Mr Tollner said.

“In response, the NT Government has sought advice for a broader protection model that could apply to consumers and extend to the construction supply chain to deliver a simplified building protection fund for home owners.

“The Northern Territory needs a consumer protection system that not only protects new home builders but purchasers of new strata title units, including high rise unit developments.

“Industry also needs a more effective builders licencing system that provides protection for subcontractors and building material suppliers.”

The Cureton Review was prepared by Cris Cureton at the law firm Squire Patton Boggs. It covers three key areas:

- Residential warranty insurance (the current Fidelity Fund)
- Building contractors licensing
- Payment protection

“Home buyers and builders will have a chance to consider other consumer protection systems and I welcome comment from all stakeholders in regards to the recommendations of the Cureton Review,” Mr Tollner said.

To provide feedback or obtain a copy of the Cureton Review go to http://www.lands.nt.gov.au/building/feedback/building-industry-regulatory-framework-review
The consultation period to provide feedback will run until 31 January 2016.

“There is currently no firm government policy stance in relation to the recommendations contained within the Cureton Review, nor any immediate proposals for legislative change,” Mr Tollner added.

“However, I am keen to consult extensively on this proposed reform and ensure that all those potentially involved have a chance to contribute their views to guide future policy development to deliver consumers the best level of protection possible.”

Media Contact: Marnie Hobson 0409 527 909