

13 October, 2026

MEDIA RELEASE

Australia cannot build with confidence if product claims cannot be trusted



New IA video podcast with former NSW Building Commissioner David Chandler AM and Building Confidence co-author Bronwyn Weir puts product verification in the construction reform spotlight.

Insulation Australasia has released a new video podcast, *Building Confidence: Non-Conforming Building Materials, Risk, Accountability and the Future of Australia's Built Environment*, bringing together former NSW Building Commissioner David Chandler AM and Building Confidence co-author Bronwyn Weir to examine why stronger verification of building product claims is critical to safer buildings, better procurement decisions, construction productivity, housing delivery and public confidence in Australia's built environment.

Hosted by IA Technical Representative Keith Anderson, the discussion focuses on the practical risks created when building products are specified, procured or installed without reliable evidence that they conform to relevant standards and perform as claimed.

IA says the issue is particularly urgent as governments and industry work to accelerate housing delivery, improve construction productivity and protect long-term investment in public infrastructure.

Insulation Australasia Chair Craig Lovel says product confidence underpins every part of the construction chain.

“When product claims cannot be trusted, risk moves through the whole system,” Mr Lovel says.

“It can affect design, procurement, certification, installation, asset performance and ultimately the people who own, use or pay for the building.”

Mr Lovel says stronger independent verification is a practical way to reduce risk before problems emerge on site or after completion.

“The goal is simple: reduce risk before it is built in,” Mr Lovel says.

“Better verification means better decisions. It gives designers, builders, certifiers, procurement teams, asset owners and consumers more confidence that the products they select will perform as claimed.”

“Building trust starts with product truth. If Australia wants fewer defects, better-performing buildings and more reliable procurement, product claims need to be supported by evidence and independent assurance.”

IA Technical Representative Keith Anderson says the discussion highlights that building product verification is about much more than compliance documentation.

“The performance of building materials affects occupant safety and health, energy efficiency, durability, productivity, project outcomes and long-term asset performance,” Mr Anderson says.

“Greater confidence in product verification benefits everyone — from designers and builders through to governments, building owners and consumers.”

David Chandler AM says, “And the great thing is, that new technologies like AI, and those sorts of applications now, can stitch the chain of custody together, in a way that it’s never, never been done before - it’s coming, and it’s coming at a rate!”

Bronwyn Weir says, “We know that CodeMark is the gold standard, and the manufacturers’ own product and technical information sheet is the lowest standard - the self-proclaimed standard.”

IA encourages professionals across government, procurement, design, specification, certification, construction and asset management to watch the podcast and share it with their networks.

WATCH THE PODCAST

Building Confidence: Non-Conforming Building Materials, Risk, Accountability and the Future of Australia’s Built Environment

Our Member Companies



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