## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **NEW TOOL TO EMPOWER HOMEOWNERS**

A new online tool was officially launched by the NSW Government today that will help protect homeowners against uninsured and unlicensed building work.

Minister for Finance, Services and Property Victor Dominello said HBC Check will enable homeowners to independently verify if any building or renovation work over \$20,000 has a valid insurance certificate.

"Last year the Government overhauled the Home Building Compensation Scheme to improve protections for homeowners in the event a builder cannot complete residential building work or fix defects, due to insolvency, death, disappearance or licence suspension," Mr Dominello said.

"By providing homeowners, prospective buyers, sellers, Councils and conveyancers with a bird's-eye view of construction activity across NSW, users can verify a project's insurance certificate number and issue date, name of builder and their licence number, and the nature of the work.

"NSW is experiencing a building boom, so it is critical that all relevant stakeholders are empowered to protect themselves against dodgy builders.

"HBC Check also protects licensed builders and tradespeople against unfair competition and weeds out unscrupulous operators."

The HBC Check includes details of more than 460,000 projects.

Visit HBC Check at https://hbc.onegov.nsw.gov.au/dashboard/#/dashboard

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