



Australian Institute of Architects

MEDIA RELEASE

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Court protects public, upholds architects' integrity

The Australian Institute of Architects has welcomed a decision by the Brisbane Magistrates Court to impose penalties on a Sunshine Coast company, having found them guilty of offences against the *Architects Act 2002* (the Act).

The Court found Christopher Peter Clout and Chris Clout Design Pty Ltd had committed 'holding out' offences under the Act. Queensland law prohibits individuals and companies from holding out to be an architect, use the title 'architect' or to use the words 'architectural services' or 'architectural design services' unless they are a registered architect with the Board of Architects of Queensland (BOAQ).

Queensland Chapter President, Paul Trotter, said architects were highly qualified professionals who require a minimum of eight years of study, work experience and professional accreditation to become a registered architect in Queensland.

'The law ensures only those individuals who have achieved the correct, extensive qualifications and registration can call themselves architects,' Mr Trotter said.

'Not only does this protect the public from misrepresentations by unqualified or unregistered operators, it is essential to maintaining the value and integrity of the architectural profession.

'The Institute applauds the work of the BOAQ in bringing this action and the decision of the Court.

'Architects influence a large proportion of infrastructure and public as well as commercial and residential projects in Australia and the high quality of their work should be protected.

'The community must have confidence that when they commission the services of an architect, that is exactly what they are getting – a highly qualified, registered professional.'

This is the second successful prosecution in the Brisbane Magistrates Court by the BOAQ this year for 'holding out' offences and should be a warning to others claiming to be architects or allowing themselves to be called architects.

The Institute has a network of seven regions represented by experienced architects in Queensland including the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay area.



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'The architects in this region are renowned for producing regionally sensitive, award winning works and this reputation for excellence must be preserved,' Mr Trotter said.

'Architects add value to people's assets and work on a broad range of projects, including affordable housing and public buildings, contrary to the common misperception that their services exist only for the top end of town.

'Ours is a respected and trusted profession and we will continue to protect and defend our hard-earned reputation against any and all pretenders. We would urge anyone looking to use an architect to undertake a quick, easy and free search of their registration and immediately notify the BOAQ of any concerns.'

Checking whether your designer is registered as an architect can be done quickly and easily by conducting a free search of the Register of Architects on the BOAQ's website: www.boaq.qld.gov.au.

The details of the Court's decision are available in the BOAQ's media release at <https://www.boaq.qld.gov.au/images/Documents/181130.pdf>

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The Australian Institute of Architects is the peak body for the architectural profession, representing 11,000 members across Australia and overseas. The Institute actively works to improve the quality of our built environment by promoting quality, responsible and sustainable design. Learn more about the Institute, log on to www.architecture.com.au.