



**Matt Kean**

Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### NEW TOOL HELPS FLOOD AFFECTED FAMILIES

NSW Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation Matt Kean has today launched the *Rebuild Assist* web page [www.rebuildassist.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rebuildassist.nsw.gov.au) to help flood-affected families of the Northern Rivers get back on their feet.

The web page is a one-stop shop where people can search for licensed, insured local tradespeople to help repair and rebuild their homes and businesses.

*Rebuild Assist* also provides tailored information and directs people to other government websites including links about insurance, emergency building provisions, as well as providing safety and building fact sheets.

“Tropical Cyclone Debbie has had a devastating impact on the local community and the last headache anyone needs is to be ripped off by shonky operators, so this platform works to ensure consumers are treated fairly,” Mr Kean said.

“*Rebuild Assist* also means businesses that are doing the right thing are a key player in the economic recovery of the community.”

The NSW Government is also supporting flood-affected residents by waiving the five-day waiting period regarding asbestos removal.

“This common sense approach means families and businesses can start the removal of dangerous asbestos sooner rather than later and get the ball rolling on repairs,” Mr Kean said.

*Rebuild Assist* includes about 14,000 local tradesperson profiles that outline their license status and home building compensation fund information.

1350 of these tradespeople have kept their details up-to-date with Fair Trading, and have been contacted and given the information they need to further update their profiles. Tradespeople who haven’t been contacted should ring 1800 055 555 to verify their identity.

Initially, we are focusing on building profiles for tradespeople in the six disaster-declared LGAs up on the website (Ballina, Byron, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed Shire). Our focus will expand to neighbouring areas in the coming weeks.

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