High Fronted Gutters

90%of gutters are now installed as high-fronted gutters. They are installed with a simple spring clip attached to the front of the facia.

Gutters are required to direct water flow away from the building, even if they are blocked. Old gutters did this by the front of the gutter being lower than the back.

High-fronted gutters sometimes direct water overflow into the internal structure of the building.

Water leaking into the roof or wall cavities, and eventually down to the foundations has obvious consequences for structural soundness of the building as well as health consequences for the occupants.

New buildings designed without eaves are particularly vulnerable. However, older buildings with gutter replacements are also vulnerable.

The Master Builders Association of the ACT and the Timber Development Association have expressed concern about possible damage being done by high-fronted gutters.

The NSW Government and the Office of Fair Trading have failed to take any serious action to-date on this issue.

Property owners who have damage resulting from high-fronted gutters are often not be able to claim insurance as it would be attributed to 'wear and tear' rather than directly attributable to a single storm.

Plumbers may be liable for the damage caused by high-fronted gutters because, as installers of the product, they are legally required to adhere to building codes and standards. However, they are currently following the manufacturer's installation instructions.

A Bexley resident had to replace her beautiful weatherboards with fibro, as that was all she could afford, as a result of damage down by these gutters. The SMH has been following the issue and showing the devastating results of water damage from these gutters.

I recommend the amendment to improve our reporting to DA applicants.