

GEMMA MCKENNA

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
FIRE SAFETY CERTIFICATION

QUALIFICATIONS

- Graduate Diploma in Building Surveying, UWS
- Bachelor of Engineering (Civil), UWS
- Diploma of Management, Frontline Management Institute

ACCREDITATIONS

- Fire Protection Association, Fire Safety Assessor Accreditation Number F058996A
- NSW Fair Trading, Building Surveyor Unrestricted, Registration Number BDC2987
- Western Australia Dept of Mines, Industry Regulation & Safety – Building Surveying Practitioner (Level 1) BSP2469

AFFILIATIONS

- Member Fire Protection Association Australia (FPAS)
- Member Association of Accredited Certifiers (ACC)
- Member Australian Institute of Building Surveyors (AIBS)
- National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) Member

CAREER HISTORY

Gemma McKenna is a senior fire safety and building compliance expert with more than 15 years of experience spanning building surveying, fire safety certification, and construction project management. An Accredited Practitioner (Fire Safety) and Unrestricted Building Surveyor under the NSW Department of Fair Trading, Gemma leads the Fire Safety Certification team at Group DLA, overseeing critical compliance services for complex public and institutional assets.

Gemma has built her career around high-risk and high-impact developments, with a particular focus on education and Crown projects. Her expertise lies in managing Annual Fire Safety Statement (AFSS) obligations, conducting detailed fire safety assessments, and delivering code-compliant, performance-balanced solutions tailored to diverse operational environments.

In her leadership role at Group DLA, Gemma is responsible for:

- Fire safety audits and certification strategy
- Assessment and documentation of all fire safety measures
- Regulatory engagement and stakeholder communication
- Advising on compliance for Crown developments and institutional portfolios
- Delivering training and guidance on fire safety obligations across project teams

Gemma's previous experience as a construction Project Manager enriches her fire safety practice with valuable site-based insight—enabling her to align strategic compliance outcomes with the practical realities of construction, operation, and maintenance. Her ability to translate legislative requirements into achievable and enduring solutions makes her a highly valued advisor to both public sector clients and private asset managers.

Gemma brings a collaborative and solutions-focused mindset to every project, ensuring safety and compliance outcomes that support long-term asset performance and operational efficiency.

COMMERCIAL AND RETAIL DEVELOPMENT

- Various NAB branches across NSW
- NAB House major refurbishment
- Various CBA branches across NSW
- Various Telstra office's across NSW
- CBA Darling Walk – numerous fitouts
- Governor Phillip Tower – numerous fitouts
- 201 Sussex Street, Sydney - numerous fitouts
- Various Uniqlo stores across NSW
- Cafes use and fitout – various sites
- Various Woolworth stores across NSW
- MTC office use and fitout – various sites
- Sushi & Maxi Bakeries for Woolworths – various sites
- Various Optus retail stores across NSW
- Woolworths Limited - Various sites
- Telstra Commercial Upgrade; 400 George Street, Sydney
- Australian Hearing - various sites across NSW
- Douglas Hanly Moir Pathology - various sites across NSW
- 347 Kent Street, Sydney
- JB Hi-Fi - various sites across NSW
- Quay Quarter - 50 Bridge Street, Sydney NSW
- McDonalds - various sites across NSW
- Ovolo Hotel - 6 Cowper Warf Roadway, Woolloomooloo NSW

INDUSTRIAL / INFRASTRUCTURE

- NAB House critical infrastructure upgrade
- Sargents Pies - 325 Chisholm Road, Auburn NSW
- Container Recycling Facility - 194 Military Road, Guildford
- Port Kembla Coal Terminal - Various Fitouts
- Port Kembla Coal Terminal - Observation Tower Upgrade
- Alpect Fitout - 9 Interchange Drive, Eastern Creek NSW
- Volvo Rushcutters Bay - 6 Neild Avenue Darlinghurst

EDUCATION

- University of Sydney – Annual Fire Safety Inspections and Statements (2023 – current)
- Western Sydney University – Annual Fire Safety Inspections and Statements (2014 - 2024)
- Western Sydney University - Façade Upgrade
- Western Sydney University - numerous fitouts
- University of Sydney - Toilet Upgrade Assessment
- St Luke's Grammar School
- Rosebank School
- St Edmunds School
- Abbotsleigh Junior School
- Abbotsleigh School for Girls - various sites
- Murrumbatemen Public School
- Googong Public School
- Maitland Childcare - 2/50 Ken Tubman Drive, Maitland NSW

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

- 12-14 Bell St Riverwood, NSW
- 2 Dowie Drive, Claymore NSW
- 99 Arkley Avenue, Claymore NSW
- 231-233 Excelsior Street, Guildford NSW
- 23-25 Lethbridge Street, St Marys NSW
- Loftus Lane, Circular Quay NSW
- 25-27 Cavers Road, Oyster Bay NSW

HEALTH AND AGED CARE

- SAIMS Ambulance Project - Caringbah NSW
- SAIMS Ambulance Project - Haberfield NSW
- RAIR Ambulance Project - Berry NSW
- RAIR Ambulance Project - Kiama NSW
- RAIR Ambulance Project - Molong NSW
- RAIR Ambulance Project - Bay & Basin NSW