



Speech by

Mr BRUCE LAMING

MEMBER FOR MOOLOOLAH

Hansard 28 April 1999

PUBLIC HOUSING, SECURITY

Mr LAMING (Mooloolah—LP) (10.22 a.m.): I rise today to bring to the attention of all members a bureaucratic bungle involving the Department of Housing and Q-Build, one of the commercialised businesses of the Department of Public Works, which has seen a fellow Queenslander become a victim of crime not once but twice.

I wish to inform fellow members of the case involving a female public housing tenant from Stafford who, over the weekend of 16 and 17 January this year, became a victim of a home invasion. After an inspection of the property by Housing Queensland officers on 18 January, the very next day, a priority order was raised with Q-Build to install both front and rear security screens under the coalition initiated Home Safe Program. However, Q-Build never carried out this original work order and the tenant suffered the further trauma of a second break-in through the same point of entry.

On 17 February 1999, the tenant contacted the Chermide Housing office, which immediately initiated an investigation to ascertain why the security doors had not been installed. They had not been installed because Q-Build had overlooked the original priority work order. This sorry tale does not end there.

In the company of an officer from Housing Queensland, a representative from Q-Build informed the tenant that the installation of the security screens would occur between 12 noon and 2 p.m. on Monday, 22 February. Was this commitment kept? No, it was not! This caused great inconvenience to the tenant who had arranged for her father to be in attendance while she was at work. This situation is totally unacceptable and is an example of the Minister's mismanagement of the Public Works and Housing portfolios.

I trust that the Minister will not take the stance of blaming hardworking public servants, but instead will stand up and acknowledge that, as Minister, the buck stops with him. The Minister needs to investigate immediately and thoroughly the circumstances of the issue and put in place procedures so that we do not see a repeat of this unfortunate bungle.

Time expired.
