



Speech by

Mr BRUCE LAMING

MEMBER FOR MOOLOOLAH

Hansard 18 October 2000

PREQUALIFIED BUILDING COMPANIES

Mr LAMING (Mooloolah—LP) (10.29 a.m.): Once again we see the shortcomings of this Government as another prequalified building company goes into provisional liquidation, leaving a number of Queensland subcontractors out of pocket. This time it is the McMaster company, which has been working on a number of projects including Mosman Hall at Charters Towers. Of the \$4m debt, \$2m is owed to subcontractors. This is equivalent to 30 jobs for one year. Smedley Plumbing has already laid off eight workers, including an apprentice, as a direct result of this failure. Dozens of subcontractors are now facing severe financial difficulties—not to mention the plight of suppliers.

Honourable members will remember the debacle earlier this year at St George and elsewhere where another prequalified builder, Designer Steel Homes, failed, leaving several subcontractors in the lurch. Subcontractors have a right to feel confident that they will be paid when working on Government jobs for builders who have been given prequalification which, amongst other criteria, includes an adequate financial capacity. Surely it was clear to the Minister for Public Works late last year that the financial capacity of prequalified building companies needed to be reviewed and closely monitored.

Time expired.
