




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Housing, Construction Costs

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (9.56 am): Earlier the Deputy Premier mentioned our endeavours to reduce the cost of building a house in this state. My department has also added to that. Under the former government, it was compulsory to install a rainwater tank and an energy-efficient hot-water system in all homes. It was also compulsory for anyone living in an area with reticulated gas whose old hot-water system broke down to replace it with a more expensive gas, solar or heat-pump model. It is completely unfair to force people to go for the more expensive model when their budget might not be able to accommodate it. We have scrapped those unfair requirements so that people are now free to choose for themselves whether or not they want to install at their homes a rainwater tank, or an energy-efficient hot-water system or a cheaper electric model. Those changes alone can cut more than \$5,000 to \$8,000 from the cost of a new home.

We have also expanded the amount of plumbing work that can be done without the need for local government permits or mandatory inspections. It will now be cheaper and faster for more routine work to be performed, so it is a win for everyone. Previously, plumbing work such as bathroom or kitchen renovations had to go through local government approval and inspection processes, which could cost up to \$1,600 and take up to 20 business days, that is, just for permits and inspections. One can imagine what effect that amount of red tape would have on the overall cost of the job. Under our changes, plumbers and drainers simply need to notify the Plumbing Industry Council within 10 business days of completing that type of work. It will cost \$25 for an electronic lodgement or \$35 for a manual lodgement.

We have made other improvements to make it easier to build over water infrastructure, again saving time and money. Many other changes are occurring in the QBCC that will make it less expensive for contractors to license and to register each year. Those changes are before the House at the moment and I look forward to outlining them in the upcoming week.