




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Building and Construction Commission

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.07 am): Queensland's building and construction industry employs around half a million people and contributes approximately \$60 billion a year to our economy. It is essential that we keep this sector strong. We need to give the industry enough freedom to respond to the market and prosper, while also having measures in place to protect consumers. That is the role of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission. I can advise the House that between 1 January and 30 April this year, the QBCC issued 378 fines totalling \$676,027, including 128 for unlicensed contracting, 53 for failure to put a contract in writing and 38 for failure to rectify defective building work. The QBCC has also successfully prosecuted 10 cases which resulted in penalties of \$45,850. So far this year, 456 demerit points have been allocated to 158 individuals, 127 licences have been cancelled and 145 licences have been suspended for breaches of legislation.

The industry regulator takes a tough stance against people doing the wrong thing so that home and property owners can trust that there are mechanisms in place to protect them and their properties. Beyond that, a compliant industry also benefits the vast majority—those hardworking licensees who do the right thing—as it results in fair and equitable outcomes for all. Since January, the QBCC has conducted targeted compliance audits in Brisbane, Cairns, Rockhampton and the Gold Coast, visiting nearly 500 building sites in total.

I can also advise the House of another QBCC initiative, this one in conjunction with the Department of Housing and Public Works. The two agencies have contributed nearly \$500,000 this financial year to provide free online access to the National Construction Code 2015 and to help fund the operation of the Australian Building Codes Board. The NCC outlines the minimum requirements for safety, health, amenity and sustainability in the design and construction of new buildings and new building work in existing buildings. Depending on the type of subscription, users previously paid \$315 to \$449 per year to access the code, but it is now available free of charge under a national initiative. This new free access means everyone, from builders to home owners, can be better informed and contractors can have no excuse for not knowing the statutory requirements. This initiative is good news for Queenslanders. It should help to boost compliance rates, which in turn will produce savings across the industry.