




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget, Building and Construction Industry

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.42 pm): A key commitment of this government is to deliver jobs for Queenslanders. We saw this yesterday in the Palaszczuk government's job-creating budget and we will see this through our Advance Queensland plan to deliver jobs for now and jobs for the future. As a government we are also very focused on the jobs created by our building and construction industry. The industry employs around 250,000 Queenslanders and contributes around \$60 billion into the state's economy in 2013-14. A key part of the building industry is the subcontractors. The Palaszczuk government has committed to investigating the security of payments for subcontractors and ensuring that all subbies are paid for the work that they do. This is not just an issue for Queensland. Right around Australia governments are attempting to address this complex issue with varying levels of success. There are many factors involved. The contracts themselves, the financial health or resilience of a company, external market forces and many other variables can affect payment. The issue also involves three different pieces of legislation, as well as other guiding materials. My department is currently reviewing the laws, codes and guidelines related to this issue to determine what measures could be adopted to address these complexities and improve security of payment. The department will also be consulting across government and with key industry stakeholders such as the Subcontractor Alliance, a group I know you, Mr Speaker, have worked closely with.

As members would be aware, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission is supporting the public examination by the independent liquidator into the affairs of Walton Construction. The public hearings are set to commence in August and the department will also consider any recommendations arising from the inquiry. This is an issue that affects many people. I want my department to move ahead with a considered, consultative approach to identify just how deep this issue really runs. Because it is such a complex issue that impacts many livelihoods it is important that we get it right. I look forward to providing the House with further updates as this process continues.