




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION LEGISLATION (NON-CONFORMING BUILDING PRODUCTS-CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY AND OTHER MATTERS) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (10.29 pm): When I was elected to represent the bayside seat of Lytton I promised to stand up for all baysiders, to listen and to act sensibly for my electorate and for all Queenslanders. Through my parents I learned that even though we had little, there were others who had less. I saw them help others out and fight for the rights of others. By example they taught me a set of values—good Labor values. I have carried these Labor values impressed upon me by my upbringing throughout my working life and no more so than now.

My parents taught me the importance of standing up for my values, looking out for others, a sense of fairness and righting wrongs. I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government, a government that is doing just that. The Building and Construction Legislation (Non-conforming Building Products—Chain of Responsibility and Other Matters) Amendment Bill is the first of its kind in Australia. Queensland has been leading the charge as part of a national work on ways to address nonconforming building products. This bill is a culmination of that work, and other jurisdictions are now watching with interest on how this legislation proceeds. This was largely prompted by the Lacrosse Tower fire in 2015 where it was found that a contributing cause was the combustible external aluminium wall cladding on the side of the building. This had also been the subject of much discussion due to the tragic fire in the Grenfell Tower in London on 14 June.

At a forum of building ministers in 2015 agreement was reached to establish a senior officers group comprising representatives from all states and territories and the Commonwealth to develop and implement strategies that address nonconforming building products. This involved researching and developing a report on how to address this issue. Queensland accepted the challenge of chairing the group and undertaking secretariat functions. The senior officers group researched the issue of nonconforming building products and undertook stakeholder engagement. The submissions received during the consultation in 2015-16 formed the basis of the eight recommendations which were adopted by the Building Ministers' Forum in February 2016 and helped inform implementation strategies. Queensland developed principles to inform a robust regulatory framework in close collaboration with the Commonwealth and other states and territories. This received endorsement at the Building Ministers' Forum in April 2017. As part of this work, Queensland has also worked closely with the Commonwealth to develop a national website to provide information and publish known nonconforming building products. This website will allow the QBCC to provide the Commonwealth with details of proven nonconforming building products and will provide the industry and the community with valuable information on which products are not safe to use for a particular purpose.

This bill will also protect the lives of many Queenslanders by helping to improve safety on building sites and includes provisions to make it easier for the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and the public to identify and act upon nonconforming building products. When the QBCC is made aware of a potential nonconforming building product, they will conduct a preliminary risk

assessment to consider the size and seriousness of the use of the building product. Nonconforming building products may also come to the attention of the QBCC through a range of people including builders, plumbers, building certifiers, contractors and members of the public. New provisions in the bill also place an obligation on a person in the chain of responsibility to notify of a suspected nonconforming building product. This applies where the person becomes aware or reasonably suspects that the building product is a nonconforming building product for an intended use.

These legislative amendments bring a new rigour to work health and safety and will ultimately benefit the entire building industry and construction industry. I would like to thank all of those who made a submission. In particular I thank the families who have lost loved ones who provided evidence at the hearings. I thank them for their strength, determination and courage. I acknowledge that the family members are here today in the gallery.

Queensland's Labor governments have a proud history of looking after workers and their rights. I have spoken in the past of my great-grandfather Percy Pease, who joined the Queensland Labor government in 1920. His government was one of the first of its kind in Australia to introduce health and safety regulations and workers compensation. Nearly 100 years later the Palaszczuk government continues with this proud Labor tradition, leading the nation by introducing a bill that will make it easier to identify and act upon nonconforming building products, save lives and make worksites safer. I commend the bill to the House.