




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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BUILDING INDUSTRY FAIRNESS (SECURITY OF PAYMENT) BILL

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (4.22 pm): I commence my contribution by acknowledging the remarks of the member for Capalaba. In his contribution he said that his electorate seems to have a disproportionate number of people working in the construction trades. That is also certainly the case for some parts of my electorate. Bracken Ridge and Bald Hills certainly have a lot of tradies as well. In moving around my electorate I have found that these issues are hot topics for so many people. As our economy is working so well, there is a lot of construction activity. Across the state, some 220,000 people are working in the building and construction industry.

Like the electorate of Capalaba, some parts of my electorate of Sandgate have a disproportionate number of people engaged in building and construction. As a consequence, the conversations down at the BRT are often about some of the challenges that people are facing in their work, particularly the perennial issue that we have heard from members on both sides of the House during this debate last night and today—an issue that has been around for generations, for eons, for donkey's years: the failure of subcontractors to get paid.

I agree with many members who made the point that plenty of people in the industry do the right thing by subcontractors and that they should not be disadvantaged. I also agree that those people who do the right thing by subcontractors should be rewarded by the cracking down on people who do the wrong thing and making sure that they are paying those people who have done the work and deserve those payments. That is what this bill does.

I acknowledge the fact that this minister has brought this bill before the House. Despite the fact that this issue has been talked about for generations—for eons, for donkey's years—this minister and this government have done something about it. I congratulate the minister on his work. I also congratulate him on the work that he has done in negotiating with all of the stakeholders to ensure that this legislation has been progressed in a way that provides the best opportunity for it to be embedded in the practices of a vitally important \$44 billion industry in this state.

I also extend my thanks and appreciation to the minister for the work that he has done in being able to deliver this legislation when others have failed. Other people spoke about it, others ramped up the rhetoric, but this minister has delivered it. I want to congratulate the minister for that.

I commend this bill for the course that it charts throughout Queensland. I know that as a consequence of this bill tradespeople in my electorate will get paid. I know that contractors who set a good example by paying their subcontractors will be rewarded by a system that makes sure that they all work on a level playing field. I commend the bill to the House. This is a wonderful first step along a pathway to making sure that this very important industry for the state of Queensland, and indeed for my own electorate of Sandgate, is fairer and better in the future.