




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Record of Proceedings, 1 November 2018

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

JM Kelly Builders

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.06 pm): I rise to speak on the serious matter I referred to earlier this week involving the failed Central Queensland based company JM Kelly builders. I foreshadowed that this was a murky matter and there was still more to come. Since I spoke on Tuesday, further information has been received from multiple sources that deserves to be raised here today. I urge anybody with information about this issue to contact me. I raised these issues on Tuesday. The minister and the members for Keppel and Rockhampton have had an opportunity to rebut in this House what I had to say but they have not. That tells me that we are on the money.

The people who have contacted me have raised some very concerning issues in addition to the ones I raised on Tuesday. What action was taken by HPW to inform other state and local government agencies about the issues with JM Kelly builders? Why did state government agencies such as the Department of Education and Training choose to ignore the risk and award this company major projects while Housing and Public Works was investigating it? What financial assurances were given by JM Kelly builders during the tender process? Were these thoroughly checked before it was awarded government contracts? What role did members like the member for Keppel play in this sorry saga? I table an email showing that she knew all about this issue.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 16 August 2018, from the Keppel electorate office, regarding JM Kelly [1793](#).

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Maryborough.

Mr HART: What were the circumstances surrounding Rob Schwarten's involvement with JM Kelly and his subsequent appointment to the board of the industry regulator, the QBCC?

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maryborough!

Mr HART: Of real concern is the allegation that Rob Schwarten had major renovations done to his Rockhampton houses by JM Kelly in 2009 and 2011—

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! One moment, member for Burleigh. Could I ask you to take your seat, please? Member for Maryborough, I have given you several early warnings. I now warn you under the standing orders.

Mr HART: Of real concern is the allegation that Rob Schwarten had major renovations done to his Rockhampton houses by JM Kelly in 2009 and 2011. In particular, I am told that a JM Kelly contractor painted his Kinka Beach house, known around Rockhampton as the beach hospital, and the cost of

that contracting work—about \$26,000—was not paid by Swarten but was added as a variation to a government contract. I have heard this from a number of credible people in Central Queensland and both the government and Mr Swarten have some very serious questions to answer about this. These questions are deserving of a thorough and rigorous examination to get to the bottom of things.