




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Record of Proceedings, 15 November 2018

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

JM Kelly Builders

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.00 pm): Continuing on the JM Kelly Builders saga, the collapse of these companies left a long trail of outstanding debts, a host of unpaid subcontractors and suppliers and many government building contracts in limbo. According to the liquidators these include the Rockhampton Base Hospital, Mackay Hospital, Stanthorpe Hospital, Mount Morgan State High School and Eimeo Road State School. Important questions about the suitability of JM Kelly office bearers to hold management positions, the transparency of its licensing arrangements, the financial assurances given, the extent of the due diligence undertaken by government agencies all remain unanswered.

From an accountability perspective, what action has been taken by the responsible minister? When were the concerns about the company first known by him? What was raised at meetings the minister attended in Rockhampton? And what is he doing to secure the lost payments for subcontractors and suppliers? Questions also arise about the extent of the knowledge of the involvement of the member for Keppel in this debacle. What is the nature of the loan she has received for her home from a building company her husband was forced to resign from and where does this sit with Labor's developer donation laws? Furthermore, what is the extent of the involvement of the former member for Rockhampton with the JM Kelly group of companies? Were there any private dealings and what were the circumstances leading to the appointment to the QBCC? Was this just another example of jobs for Labor mates or something far more sinister?

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Logan, I heard that unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr POWER: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Mr HART: The former member responded with a statutory declaration that did not correspond with the questions outlined in my speeches from the last sitting. The years he provided information on were different. I point out the former member has a number of houses that have had major renovations. The question remains how were those renovations paid for and ultimately by whom?

When I first raised these matters in the parliament it was on the basis of information that had been provided to me by concerned citizens in Central Queensland. As part of my legislative responsibilities I felt duty-bound to raise these concerns so that these matters could be appropriately examined. Those members opposite howled me down and were quick to deny any wrongdoing. This has an Ipswich City Council feel to it, with Labor members insisting for so long there was nothing to see there.

Over the past week I have been contacted by more than a dozen people and have received a continuing stream of emails providing further information about the goings on in Rockhampton. The Queensland Police Service is reportedly investigating statutory declarations lodged by JM Kelly

Builders, ASIC has become involved and the QBCC is apparently examining its position. The trouble is everyone's responsibility is apparently no-one's responsibility. There are a whole lot of questions here, but there are not too many answers.