




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Liberal National Party, Red-Tape Reduction

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.51 pm): Today, as I did last week, I want to examine LNP policy, specifically their promise to reduce red tape. When the LNP talk about reducing red tape, they are talking about cuts—cuts to the protection of Queenslanders, cuts to the protection that stopped Queenslanders being exploited, being robbed and being ripped off. They have not said what protections they want to cut. Firstly, for example, what about project bank accounts? Is that a red-tape measure that they want to cut? We brought in project bank accounts to safeguard payments to Queensland subcontractors. Progress payments for jobs are held in trust accounts, which ensures that the subbies are paid on time and in full. Security of payment is a huge issue for subbies and for working Queenslanders across the state. A total of 200,000 Queenslanders work in the construction industry and PBAs are a great protection for these 200,000 Queenslanders and their families. Are PBAs the kind of red tape that the LNP want to cut?

Secondly, what about combustible cladding in the building trade? We have brought in regulations that state that certain types of buildings that are likely to have combustible cladding due to their height or when they were constructed have to be registered on the Safer Buildings website and the owners have to complete the combustible cladding checklist. I ask the LNP: is this the kind of red tape they want to cut, or are they going to recognise that this is a protection that helps us prevent fires such as the tower disaster in London?

Thirdly, what about the smoke alarm regulations? Once again, is that the kind of red tape that the LNP want to cut? We introduced new laws in 2017 that require people building a new home or undergoing significant renovations to install photoelectric interconnected smoke alarms. They have to be in all bedrooms, in all hallways and on each level of the home. After 2022, all homes that are sold or leased must have these smoke alarms installed. There is no doubt that this is more onerous than previously. Once again I ask: is this the kind of red tape that the LNP want to cut? This is a protection that will save the lives of Queenslanders. Higher standards in smoke alarms means more Queensland homes will be saved and more Queensland families will be safe.

Whenever the LNP talk about what they want to do, at the core is to cut, sack and sell and the promise to reduce red tape. I ask: could that be code for more cuts—cuts to the protections that stop Queenslanders being ripped off, stop them being exploited and stop them being robbed? The LNP needs to tell Queenslanders what cuts they have in mind for them.