




Speech By
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**BUILDING INDUSTRY FAIRNESS (SECURITY OF PAYMENT) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (12.18 pm): I will focus my contribution to the debate on the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill around four areas, but I will start in response to the member for Capalaba. For the member for Capalaba to somehow mock the shadow minister and indeed this side of the House for demanding a fair day's pay for a fair day's work ridicules what we all seek to do—that is, bring about legislation that ensures that everybody is treated in a fair manner, and that means everybody. That means the person who loads up their trailer every day to go out to work and who will never be a head contractor but relies on that to make a crust and that means the developer who puts everything on the line every time they embark on buying a project site and trying to get an approval and develop something on a site for the betterment of the community and indeed for themselves. That is everyone.

It seems as though much of the commentary that has been in this parliament has derided those people who want to develop. They have been chastised. Effectively they have been called crooks because they cannot donate to one side of politics because somehow that corrupts the political process. What we see here by some of the commentary is a reflection that those opposite do not believe that everybody in the construction industry deserves a fair go. I am not involved in the construction industry and neither is my family, but one of my best mates gets up every day and he goes to work as a builder. By no means is he top end of town and by no means is he a large-scale builder, but he tells me about the battles he faces every day in having to arrange those subcontractors and in having to make sure that he warrants their work every time he puts his name on a front board, and he knows, having worked for bigger developers himself, what it means not to be paid.

I say to those opposite: the calls from the shadow minister and indeed this side of the House to get this legislation right—and soon I will touch on the commission of inquiry—and the calls to improve things are not something that should be taken lightly, and I take the project bank accounts as a classic example. To suggest that because project bank accounts have operated on government contracts and that that somehow makes them foolproof and they cannot be improved with the private sector shows a complete lack of understanding of the real world. I say to the minister that there are ways that it can continue to be improved and, fundamentally, that involves the red tape and administrative burden that will be put on some of these smaller builders and developers.

We all should want to have a system that protects people and ensures that they get paid a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. Likewise, we should not have a scenario where people are walking away from jobs because they do not believe they can comply. The greatest gift we can give anyone in any sector but particularly building and construction is certainty—certainty that when they are quoting on a job they are not going to be stomped on by the unions, certainty that when they are quoting on a job they will be paid, certainty that when they are quoting on a job they will not have a level of regulation that has been described by people in both the finance and legal sector as being very heavy and very difficult to understand. That is why the LNP will continue to say that more needs to be done in this area.

We acknowledge the special task force and we have acknowledged some of the improvements that have been made, but I say again that we will continue to offer the hope of a full-blown commission of inquiry because that will be what truly gets to the bottom of the wrongdoings but it will also get to the bottom of improving the administrative burden that will continue to choke people wanting to go forward and deliver projects in the most affordable means with the greatest level of protection.

Finally, I come back to where I started. A fair day's pay for a fair day's work is not a mortgage that one side of politics has on another. It is not a mortgage for one sector of an industry over another. It should apply to every person who takes a risk in some way, shape or form to carve out a living for their family, and that is something that everyone in this House should strive to achieve.