



Speech By  
**Michael Hart**


**MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2021

**MOTION**

**Queensland Building and Construction Commission**

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (5.12 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Everton. I can tell the House that there is not a 'handful' of cases, as the minister has just told us. There are, in fact, hundreds if not thousands of cases where the so-called independent regulator has failed the people of Queensland. What have we heard in the past couple of weeks? The minister was asked a question in parliament about a meeting he had in September 2019 with Toni Bowler, who some people would say is a family friend of the minister.

**Mr Stevens:** A former Labor councillor.

**Mr HART:** A former Labor councillor; I take that interjection. Within hours of that meeting, on a weekend the QBCC sent two senior staff to the Gold Coast, on overtime, which the minister says is normal practice. The minister stood in this place and told us that the meeting with Toni Bowler was about sport. During that 'sport' meeting apparently Toni Bowler said, 'My building is going to fall down.' The minister said, 'Well, that's a coincidence because I'm the minister for housing. I'll get on the phone now to the QBCC and we'll sort this right out for you, because that is what a minister does.' While the minister tells us that it is not the minister's job or the board's job to interfere with the so-called independent regulator, in this case ministerial intervention led to two senior staff going to the Gold Coast to look at the building.

The minister told us that the building was going to fall down, but we have since found out that the QBCC, in fact, reported there were no structural defects with the Kirra Vista building. It appears that he shut down the Groupline Constructions Maya building project for no good reason. In fact, Groupline Constructions took the QBCC to court and won. They are about to sue the QBCC for something like, I am told, \$10 million. The interference of the minister and the board in this matter is going to cost the people of Queensland \$10 million.

The minister tells us that he is happy to meet with people who have issues with the QBCC. Let us talk about Linda Hartman and her daughter Paige. Linda had a house built for Paige at a cost of \$700,000. Apparently it had rising damp and it was demolished under the orders of the QBCC, as reported by *A Current Affair*. Linda tried to see the minister. She drove to the minister's office but was refused an interview with him. Then again, she is not a family friend.

Mark Agius lives in Townsville. I have been to Townsville a number of times to see Mark and I understand that the member for Townsville has also spoken to Mark. Mark would like to speak to the minister. He has a house on the side of a hill in Townsville. I have seen him there. He has wind issues because of the way that the house was constructed. A few days ago he told me that you can put a marble on the floor and it will roll across the floor. He spent \$1 million trying to get things sorted out through the QBCC. He would like to see the minister, but he cannot see him because he is not a family friend. He is not in any union. He is not an important person to the minister. He cannot get through the minister's door.

The member for Everton told us about Shaun McCrystal. He heard what the minister said in parliament the other day about meeting with anybody to discuss their issues, so he inquired about having a meeting with the minister. But, no! Instead of a meeting, Shaun received a response from the QBCC liaison officer in the minister's office. I table that correspondence, which Shaun sent to me only this morning.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of emails regarding matter referred to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission regarding fire safety concerns [1825](#).

We have issues with the air-conditioning industry. The minister has organised for his union mates to take over the air-conditioning industry and the fire industry. All such industries have training provided by the Service Trades College, which is union run and funded by the government. The government has given them \$18 million here and \$20 million there to build a trade services college that will benefit the unions. That is what this is all about. It is all about benefitting the unions and not the people of Queensland. It needs an inquiry.

*(Time expired)*