




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2021

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (4.26 pm): I, too, rise to speak to the Auditor-General's report on the building industry. It is quite clear from the discussions we have had this week that the QBCC is a mess. That can only be slated back to the minister who is responsible for that and to the board. The Auditor-General's report says that the QBCC does not have the technical ability to carry out some of the work it is charged with doing. This report is months old. Since then, the QBCC has lost about 20 key staff. Things have just got worse and worse for the QBCC. I do not see it getting any better under this minister.

In the past couple of days we have had a debate about the minister's possible interference in the running of the QBCC and about the board's interference. It is pretty clear that this government has destroyed the capabilities of the QBCC since it was put in place by the Newman government—

Mr King: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Is this relevant to the report the Auditor-General produced?

Mr HART: I am talking to the report.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): I will get some advice. Member, it is relevant but I remind you to come back closer to the report.

Mr HART: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It is quite clear that this government has destroyed the capability of the QBCC over its years in government after it was put in place by the Newman government under the capable minister at the time, the member for Everton.

We made a number of changes to the way that the old BSA worked as the QBCC. We made some changes to the minimum financial requirements. This government tries to reinvent history when its argument does not suit the facts. In the past members have told this House that minimum financial requirements were withdrawn. They were not withdrawn. This was a red-tape issue. The building industry no longer had to report to the QBCC about their minimum financial requirements, but they still had to have them. They still had to have them audited. They still had to be financially viable, but they did not have to report it. There was no reason whatsoever under the rules that we changed that the QBCC could not ask any builder at any time for their financial statements.