




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2021

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.09 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Transport and Resources Committee Report No. 8, 57th Parliament, *Examination of Auditor-General Report 16: 2019-20: Licensing builders and building trades*, tabled on 28 July 2021.

This particular Auditor-General's report was referred to the former transport and public works committee in July last year during the last parliament. That committee, which I also chaired, held a public briefing with the Queensland Audit Office, the QBCC and the former department of housing and public works in September 2020. However, then we had an election. After the election the transport and public works committee ceased to exist and the new Transport and Resources Committee was formed. We resolved as a committee to continue the inquiry and sought written updates from the QBCC regarding the Auditor-General's report and progress on the implementation of the audit recommendations.

We identified that the QBCC is part way through the transition from a complaints driven authority to a risk focused, insights driven regulator. The committee considered that finalisation of this process as soon as practically possible is essential. Whilst the committee agreed to report on the Auditor-General's report now, it also agreed that we would continue to monitor progress on the finalisation of the audit recommendations and will report again if necessary.

I digress briefly here to acknowledge residents of the Kurwongbah electorate who have contacted me about QBCC matters—people who for the most part have contacted the QBCC after bad experiences with home-building and renovations work, including some who have been ripped off financially. I want to send out a thankyou to the workers at the QBCC who are often the proverbial messengers to complainants at very stressful times in their life. It is not an easy job. I think the QBCC's transition to a risk focused, insights driven model will deliver better outcomes across the board, especially to consumers.

I also want to point out that in recent years we have been tightening up regulations right across the building industry from accountability in the chain of supply to the standard of materials permitted for use in and on Queensland buildings to bank guarantees. We have taken action designed to reduce complaints escalating to the QBCC by stopping the issues before they start. I want to acknowledge and thank Minister de Brenni, his staff and his department for their work in that space.

On behalf of the Transport and Resources Committee, I want to thank the Queensland Audit Office, the QBCC and the former department of housing and public works for their assistance with our committee's examination of this report. I also want to thank the former members of the transport and public works committee as well as the current members of the Transport and Resources Committee for their contribution to the committee's inquiry. I also want to thank our hardworking secretariat, who back us up all the time. It is a large volume of work they get through and we do really appreciate it.

It really is important for the transparency of government, government departments and statutory authorities like the QBCC to have this system of checks and balances in place. That is why we tabled this report in July with a recommendation that the Legislative Assembly note its contents, which I echo today. I will say there has been a lot of talk about the QBCC this week. I know certain members will get up and bash the QBCC. When we conducted this inquiry on that Auditor-General's report, everything was pretty good. I think that we should be looking at that report and not what we have been looking at this week. Others will use it as an opportunity to bash the QBCC and I do not endorse what they say.