




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2021

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Minister for Public Works and Procurement; Queensland Building and Construction Commission

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.00 pm): In the past few months a series of stories have exposed the total dysfunction of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission. This is not the fault of the majority of QBCC staff who are hardworking and honest. This dysfunction falls directly at the feet of Minister de Brenni and the board he appointed. Under the leadership of Minister de Brenni, the commission has lost its independence, it is riddled with conflicts of interest and it has lost the confidence of builders and home owners alike.

Let us look at recent events that show that this minister is not fit for office. Minister de Brenni has single-handedly destroyed the livelihoods of hundreds of small businesspeople in the fire protection industry. By imposing unnecessary and unfair extra regulation, hundreds of people who have competently carried out fire protection services for decades will no longer be qualified to do those tasks at the end of this month. The changes have been introduced by the minister, a CFMMEU acolyte, solely to benefit unionised labour companies at the expense of small businesspeople.

Last sitting it was revealed that a convicted sex predator had been allowed to work as a builder and continue to enter people's houses because the minister did not cancel his licence. In a sheer act of revenge, the minister threw under the bus two former employees of the QBCC, the honest people who recommended the licence be cancelled at the time of their departure, which the minister's new regime ignored. Surprise, surprise! When the media and the LNP highlighted the issue the licence was cancelled within 24 hours.

This week we have seen the minister caught out once again. Despite repeatedly and categorically stating that neither he nor his office or the QBCC board interfere in operational matters, evidence has been provided that raises serious questions about that assertion. Why did Toni Bowler get an audience with the minister when hundreds of other home builders who have claims of unsafe buildings cannot? What is Toni Bowler's relationship with the family of the minister? Were department of public works officials at a meeting with Toni Bowler when the minister stated that the meeting was about sporting issues? Why did the QBCC continue to prosecute a case in the courts when on two occasions they ruled that the QBCC had worked outside of its jurisdiction?

It would seem that the minister has misled the House. Time and time again he has proven that he is unfit for office. He needs to apologise and then he needs to resign.