




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2021

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Queensland Building and Construction Commission

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.57 pm): Today there are many members in this House wishing people Merry Christmas. It will not be a Merry Christmas for many people in the fire protection industry, those small businesses that Minister de Brenni is putting out of business—people who for years have done the work effectively without incident until the minister decided, with the backing of the QBCC board, that we need to change the regulations to benefit large unionised companies. I wanted to confirm my suspicions that there had not been issues in the past, so I put a question on notice asking how many defects had been identified by the QBCC in the fire protection industry over the last six years. Guess how many defects were discovered?

Mr Hart: Zero?

Mr MANDER: Not zero, but one. There was one—one defect in the last six years and that has motivated this minister and the QBCC board, which means that hundreds of small businesses are facing Christmas with an uncertain future as they try to work out what they are going to do. It is an absolute disgrace and we will continue to fight for these small business people.

Just when you think things cannot get any worse at the QBCC, what do we find out this week? One of the most common queries the QBCC deals with is when builders ring to seek clarification about what licences are required for particular work, and for years that has been one of the major services of the QBCC. What has happened in this last period is that an email has gone out to QBCC officers from a bureaucrat within the QBCC to say that that is to cease and they are no longer to do that. Now when builders and tradies ring they have to tell them, 'Read the legislation yourself and try to interpret it.'

This comes from a government that cannot read its own legislation. We found that out when it was discovered that identified defects for the last two years were in jeopardy because the government stuffed up the legislation. Those opposite cannot read the legislation. They expect hardworking tradies to, and if they get it wrong they will get prosecuted. What sort of customer-centric attitude is that from the QBCC? Is it any wonder that we have issues.

One final word on the QBCC: an inquiry has been announced, but to this date we still do not know how members of the public can make a submission to the inquiry. A couple of weeks ago the minister came into the House with some garble about it happening, without any reference to how members of the public can make submissions. This inquiry will be as farcical as the minister's performance.