



Speech By  
**Michael Hart**


**MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2022

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Queensland Building and Construction Commission**

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (7.07 pm): The QBCC has completely failed the people of Queensland and the sham inquiry that the minister has set up is not going to help anybody. I ask members to listen to what Mark Agius in Townsville has to say. He says—

My home is entirely unsafe to occupy and is a significant safety risk not only to my family but to every member of the public living nearby, but from day one, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission ... refused to do its job because it disregarded the standards and regulations which it's required to regulate.

I was forced to respond to civil proceedings launched against me to collect the final invoice by the builder after the QBCC would not enforce the National Building Code ... once it was discovered the wind rating had been downgraded by an engineer.

On advice from the QBCC, in 2018 I paid the final invoice in the hope that the QBCC would have my home rectified. Instead, I was left with a home in a state that was even more dangerous than before the direction, yet the QBCC didn't feel it reasonable to ensure it met standards.

The QBCC is failing Queenslanders, homeowners and tradies alike and the relevant Minister Mick de Brenni, who was fully aware of my case, has done nothing to help me. I also reported the activities of the QBCC several times to the CCC only to have those allegations sent back to the very person in the QBCC who the allegations were levelled against, and the investigations were closed.

Over four excruciating years, instead of directing the builder to comply with Australian Standards for the Building Code, the QBCC determined in its decisions that it had no jurisdiction to direct the builder—

what is it there for?—

citing an obscure interpretation of the Regulation that the construction of his home was 'not building works'—

construction of a home is not building works; wow—

opting time and time again to wait for the civil matter to unfold in the QCAT.

Mark eventually spent more than a million dollars on top of the \$400,000 that his house cost him in professional fees for engineers, inspectors, solicitors and barristers.

During his case he also commissioned 18 independent reports. Eventually Mark won against his builder. How did the QBCC allow a situation to get so bad that a home owner had to prove his case before a tribunal over four years costing nearly \$1 million whilst the QBCC preferred to sit on the fence and enjoy an all-out David and Goliath battle to cover its own defective administration? Mark has tried to meet with the minister, Mick de Brenni, and he has been told no. Maybe that is because he did not have a sports grant that he wanted to achieve or maybe it was because his father was not a friend of the minister. That is the only way to get a meeting with this minister and get anything done.