




Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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**BUILDING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (12.26 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Building and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. At the outset I acknowledge that there are many people within the QBCC who make an outstanding contribution to the role and services of that organisation. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the leadership provided by this government over many years. I want to refer back to the committee report on the original bill in 2017. I note that the member for Murrumba was also on that committee at the time, and I was interested in his contribution here today. In 2017 the minister of the day talked about how important it was to give the QBCC the powers to regulate building products. The explanatory notes stated—

This will achieve improved consumer and public safety and fairness for building industry licensees by imposing duties on all participants of the building product supply chain and providing the QBCC with the ability to appropriately address instances of non-conforming building products throughout the building product supply chain.

It has been five years. Here we are again debating issues of concern around public safety under legislation that the government introduced five years ago, and they still have not delivered and they still have not got it right. That is what we have all come to expect of this all talk, no action Labor government.

I also refer in that report to other statements that were made. Context is very important. People rightly should be concerned about the quality of building products used at some sites. The context of this is that back in 2017 the minister noted in his introductory speech—

... it took less than 15 minutes for a lit cigarette left on a balcony to cause 13 floors of the Lacrosse building in Melbourne to be engulfed in flames. That fire was a result of highly flammable nonconforming aluminium cladding, a cheaper imitation version of a conforming product.

The minister had quite a bit to say about it back then.

We hear there are some sites—in fact, I have heard during the course of the debate about 30 sites across Queensland—that have still not been addressed. I find it incredibly concerning that five years on we are still waiting for these matters to be resolved.

At this juncture I raise concerns around the performance of the QBCC in respect of the support of tradies and subcontractors and the payment of such. I note that in the explanatory notes there are references to the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020. What a wonderful work of fiction that act has been. We are still waiting for further reviews of the initial trial of project bank accounts. We are still hearing stories of significant building failures and collapses. All the while, this government continues to siphon off all of the dividends and premiums paid into the Home Warranty Insurance Scheme to prop up the state budget and fund the activities of the QBCC. I wonder if all of those premiums, rather than being dragged across into consolidated revenue, had been left within the QBCC—

**Mr de BRENNI:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Southport, I think we would all recall, is a former shadow minister.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): What is your point of order?

**Mr de BRENNI:** The member is deliberately misleading the House in relation to his statement about the transfer of funds from the insurance fund to consolidated revenue.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** If you want to make an accusation like that there is a process to follow, which is a written process. Do you have any other point of order?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I am alerting you to the fact that I intend to proceed with that process and alerting the member of the same.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister, for alerting me and the House to that. If there is no other point of order I would ask you to resume your seat.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I will move on from that point. I note also that the legislation deals with matters to do with solar hot-water systems and solar panels. Again we see evidence that a former Labor government got the policy and the legislation wrong. It is frustrating that we have to come back time and time again to address some of these shortcomings and failings. We will not be opposing these changes because we believe they are necessary. I will close with this: it is incredible to think that five years on we are still having to revisit issues of public safety in this matter.