



Speech By  
**Tim Mander**


**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 February 2022

## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

### **Queensland Building and Construction Commission, Review**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.13 pm): Stakeholders in the building industry, both consumers and builders, are frustrated with the so-called review into the QBCC that was commissioned by Minister de Brenni. They are frustrated by the limited terms of reference which do not address things like allegations of ministerial and board intervention. They are frustrated by the vehicle being used—basically a chat room where everybody can see everybody's comments. They are also frustrated by the lack of protection for whistleblowers who might want to speak about some of the systemic issues they have witnessed in the QBCC. There were practical issues with the chat room. The chat room was not available until, I think, five days after it was advertised to start. It ended badly as well. It was supposed to finish at midnight on 18 February but everybody was shut out at 10 am. People were wondering what the heck was happening. Once again it was not working.

While all of this is happening, the service delivery of the QBCC is leaving a lot to be desired. I recently received a letter from a constituent of the Gold Coast who had dealings with the QBCC. This consumer had an issue with his house. He was following up his case as he had not heard back. He received a letter from the QBCC saying, 'You were originally told that it would take around 18 weeks for the QBCC to come and have a look at the issue.' This letter acknowledges that he would be frustrated by the lack of communication and timeliness and apologises for the fact that it is not going to be 18 weeks; it is going to be 30 weeks to check his building on the Gold Coast. This could be dangerous. This officer from the QBCC seems to be very sympathetic and I think very embarrassed by the situation and says, 'We understand that it is causing you concern that there might be structural damage.'

It only takes 16 weeks to build a house if there are no weather delays. We have the situation where it is taking up to 30 weeks to do checks. It is my understanding that there are only four building inspectors in the Gold Coast region and three of them are on leave. They now have one building inspector. The rumours are that two of those people are on leave because they are suspected of whistleblowing and have been stood down. This is absolutely disgraceful. The minister needs to respond in relation to these unnecessary delays.

*(Time expired)*