



Speech By  
**Fiona Simpson**


**MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Construction Industry**

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (7.00 pm): Have you thought about building a house lately or maybe renovating your bathroom? Do you know about the changes to the rules? Probably not. The biggest changes to the construction code in its history are being implemented very rapidly and at a time of uncertainty and cost escalation, with many Queensland consumers potentially impacted by up to \$30,000 on a new house. Additional costs are even incurred with bathrooms that are being renovated. At a time of record homelessness and great pain in the building industry, the state government's answer is to introduce more cost, red tape, confusion and chaos.

The industry has clearly said it would work on making this happen in a way that ensured clarity and an adequate transition time, but the state government and Minister de Brenni did not listen and now we have seen flip-flops and more confusion. Where is the detailed information for industry? I talked about how there are home owners who may not understand what this impact will be. There are people in the industry who are saying they have not seen the detailed technical advice provided to the range of many small businesses that make our construction industry work. This has been absolutely chaotic.

I asked a question on notice of the minister about what funding had been provided to help in the rollout of education for those who have to deliver it. Quite frankly, his answer was pathetic. It did not identify a monetary figure and it certainly has not satisfied the many people I have talked to in the industry. One said—

Our view is that insufficient education and awareness was provided to industry consumers and the supply chain. In particular, it is insufficient for small business builders and trade contractors, being the majority of the industry, to just have information on the national Australian Building Codes Board website that they are supposed to know exists without receiving proactive information about the changes and then the QBCC only putting information up on the website days before commencement.

They go into a lot more detail about what this means. There are many people in the industry, not only builders. I mention waterproofers as an example of a group for whom there is quite a substantial change. There will be others. People want to do the right thing, but the way this government has gone about doing this is absolutely wrong. They have spent more on their own PR, publicity and egos than they have on working with industry and consumers. We need to see answers to homelessness that are not about a government creating confusion, more costs and disruption through their flip-flopping. There needs to be certainty and work done with industry so people can have their homes built and renovated and a roof put over people's heads.