




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Queensland Building and Construction Commission

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.56 pm): The construction industry makes an invaluable contribution to the Queensland economy. It is the second largest employer in the state, with 250,000 people employed in the industry. The construction industry contributes close to \$30 billion—that is 8.1 per cent of total input—to Queensland's economy, making it the state's third largest sector. The sector in this state is regulated by the Queensland Building and Construction Commission. Under Minister de Brenni the QBCC has been embroiled in controversy after controversy, as both builders and consumers make endless complaints about the QBCC's ability to be competent and fair.

One of the minister's initiatives in the construction sector has been the minimum financial requirements and mandatory reporting laws. These laws were supposed to eliminate the risk of building companies becoming insolvent, therefore protecting home builders and subcontractors. With insolvencies happening on a regular basis, the effectiveness of this reporting regime is questionable. These laws have also created an enormous amount of paperwork and bureaucracy for builders, particularly small operators, putting a huge burden on them. This week the QBCC confirmed that it had imposed licence conditions on 537 licensees under the mandatory reporting system. The conditions imposed on these licences prevent them from entering into new contracts for building work.

This story was given to the *Courier-Mail* on Monday; it had a link to the site that named the companies. There was one major problem: this blacklist included building companies that had complied, but they were mentioned anyway. I am not sure if there could be a more irresponsible action taken by the QBCC. Do the minister, the QBCC board or the leadership of the QBCC have any idea what impact inclusion on this list has on a building business?

In the building industry, reputation is everything. It affects their ability to get work. Consumers avoid companies that have a black mark against their name, and I believe there are at least 14 companies—I suspect there are more—that have been wrongly named. I urge the minister to investigate this matter and provide an explanation on how this oversight could occur. Those wrongly named companies also deserve a public apology, clearing their names. If this minister is going to introduce bureaucratic, complicated implications on mum-and-dad builders, he has to make sure they get it 100 per cent right.