



Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2023


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Transport and Resources Committee, Report

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (11.53 am): I rise to speak about the estimates hearings and express my disappointment at some of the things that were discussed in that hearing with regards to public works and Minister de Brenni. One issue has caused great angst in the building industry. I cannot remember so many builders contacting myself and other members of parliament because they cannot believe—

Mr de Brenni interjected.

Mr MANDER: You do not believe it; I take that interjection. Members of the Master Builders are listening right now. This minister does not believe that they are upset about the changes that are coming in from 1 October—changes that no other state across the country is doing—because this minister stubbornly refuses to listen to the stakeholders, that is, the people who know and who say that his changes will mean anything from \$30,000 to \$70,000 extra on the cost of the construction of a new home at a time when cost of living is the greatest issue facing Queenslanders. This minister refuses to listen and does not believe that this is an issue. They will continue to campaign in the hope that common sense will prevail even though, as I said, the minister refuses to listen.

Another issue that continually pops up in these hearings, and about which I am continually approached in my office as are other members of parliament, is the continual dysfunction of the QBCC. The QBCC would have to be one of the most complained about services in the Queensland government. Some things that have come out are of great concern. The most fundamental role of the QBCC is the inspection of defective buildings. During the hearing, we were told that the average time it takes from a complaint being made to someone coming out to inspect a building defect is 20 weeks. That is the average time so we can imagine that at the higher end it could be six to seven to eight months before someone goes out and inspects a defect or an alleged defect. The commissioner was asked about this last year and at that time she said that this should be a KPI. However, this year is no different. She has expressed her concern about that delay but there are no obvious strategies that will reduce that wait time, which is entirely unacceptable.

A review of the QBCC recommended that they have a separate revenue stream to pay their way. At the moment the QBCC does not pay its way. It needs money from the state government to break even. The minister has continued not to rule out a levy on builders. There are already a lot of imposts on builders with overregulation and now I believe that the minister is seriously considering putting a levy on builders so that they can pay their way and pay their bills.

One of the most disturbing things that came out of the hearing was the fact that there have been a further seven allegations of corruption forwarded to the CCC. That follows on from, I think, 30 the year before. This is the building regulator. This is a body where integrity means everything. This is the impartial referee so allegations of corruption should be treated very seriously. The commissioner also mentioned that one of those allegations was made by her against a board member. Again, that is a serious allegation and something that should have the attention of the minister. I have a question for the minister today: have there been allegations of corruption made against any executive members of the QBCC? The chair of the QBCC has an obligation to report to you if those allegations have been made and you have a responsibility to this parliament and the people of Queensland—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Through the chair, member.

Mr MANDER: I take the correction. The minister has an obligation to the people of Queensland to advise them and this parliament whether there have been allegations made against any executive members of the QBCC. The fact that we continue to hear about allegations of corruption in a body where impartiality is integral and so important is of serious concern. I expect the minister to make some sort of response in the future.