



Speech By  
**Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**QBuild**

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.00 pm): The new Premier has made accountability of his ministers a key focus of his campaign—the so-called contract they have made with Queenslanders. In the last sitting week of parliament, the Premier said—

I have handed down chartered letters to each minister. In those, I have outlined and confirmed the values, deliverables, goals and KPIs for their respective portfolios.

Clearly, the Premier has placed great stock in these charter letters, so much so that they even had their own dedicated media release. They are publicly available for all to read, though the government has made a virtue of something that has always been the case.

Sometimes it is the omissions that are more telling about a new government's intentions. In my new role as the shadow minister for public works, I have carefully read the charter letter handed down to the Minister for Public Works. The charter letter is broad, with sweeping statements, and, as we have already highlighted in the House, has little to no actual measurable KPIs. There are three references to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission, three references to procurement and one mention of productivity, which is surprising. There is one word that is missing. There is not one reference, not one utterance of it in the charter letter. I can tell members that I have done Ctrl+F to that letter multiple times. That word is QBuild—there is nada, nothing.

QBuild is a vital part of Queensland's \$59 billion building and construction industry. As the Queensland government's builder, QBuild plays a critical role across the state in building and maintaining government owned assets. We know that QBuild staff are among the first on the ground to respond to severe weather events and complete repairs and building works to help communities get back on their feet.

We also know that when the LNP were last in power they stripped more than 1,600 jobs from QBuild. They decimated it—destroying its ability to provide safe, responsive trade services throughout the state. It was our Labor government that rebuilt QBuild, employing hundreds of QBuild tradies and apprentices and reinvigorating regional depots in Rockhampton, Cairns, Bundaberg and Caboolture. We also locked in the delivery of 600 modular homes to help relieve housing pressure in regional and remote parts of Queensland through the establishment of the Rapid Accommodation and Apprenticeship Centres in Eagle Farm, Zillmere and Portsmith. Importantly, we established QBuild's role in educating and training, with a pipeline of apprentices contributing to a trade qualified future workforce which is essential.

While recently the minister was very happy to don a QBuild cap for a social media opportunity, it is very clear that QBuild is simply not a priority for this new LNP government when it cannot even get one reference in the minister's charter letter. That does not bode well for the government's own builder.