




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Record of Proceedings, 20 November 2025

**QUEENSLAND BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

Second Reading

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (7.30 pm): I rise to speak to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. I applaud the swift action of the housing minister and his team in getting on and working with our construction industry to modernise what was archaic legislation—something those opposite were not able to do for 10 years. I congratulate the committee on their consideration of this bill, which details what is tranche 3 of a four-tranche rollout of construction industry reforms. The updates reflected in this bill provide long-overdue reforms that enable productivity by empowering the QBCC to be a more efficient and user-friendly regulator.

This bill is in direct response to industry and community calls for government to take action on legislative changes that under the previous Labor government had resulted in an over-regulated, complex, arduous and costly system—a system that was not only slowing productivity but, indeed, undermining small business viability. Our construction industry deserves a modern system that keeps up with technology as it evolves. With its implementation, this bill introduces digitisation, refines the system to a single notification point and streamlines workplace safety notifications, removing unnecessary duplication. It includes digital licensing, online attendance and electronic communication—all without compromising safety.

Contrary to what a number of those opposite have said, the bill does not weaken workplace safety, with all safety obligations remaining unchanged. The QBCC will continue to receive all serious information via secure data sharing with the Office of Industrial Relations. In fact, penalties have increased for industry licensees that fail to adhere to safety obligations. What does change is how regulators communicate, ensuring interagency notifications with the right information at the same time, not what is reported. Even with the implementation of digitisation it is important to note that, for those amazing construction industry workers who prefer to be paper-based, that will still also be available.

Just who are those amazing construction workers in our community? They are the plasterers, electricians, bricklayers, plumbers, roofers, painters, roofing and wall cladders, cabinet-makers, tilers, steel fixers, waterproofers, as well as termite managers, and fire protection and building design workers—real men and women who have families to support and who rely on a competent government to have their back, as the Crisafulli government has demonstrated in this bill, which lays the foundations for our next tranche of improvements for their industry, with tranche 4 again modernising legislation to further improve consistency across all QBCC licences.

Tranches 1 and 2 have already cut paperwork, reduced administrative burden and given industry the time it needs to adapt, paused the trust account rollout and reduced the administrative burden for more than 97 per cent of individual licensees. The Master Builders website shows results of a statewide survey they conducted during the 2024 election. It states—

Queensland builders have suffered an avalanche of regulatory changes over the past few years, costing time and money, in addition to challenging market conditions in the wake of COVID-19 and other international events. Queenslanders want these businesses better supported by government, so they can play their role in growing our state for the future.

This bill addresses safety and productivity, all in direct response to industry feedback such as this.

The Crisafulli government inherited the housing crisis of the previous government's making, where productivity had slowed due to lack of planning, lack of investment, lack of good governance and lack of listening to the industry we are relying on to deliver the construction needs of a growing state. Today this bill forms part of the multiple levers the Crisafulli government are moving to shift the dial on that housing crisis.

Construction industry representatives from across my electorate of Rockhampton have long been calling out for initiative to be taken by government to step up and provide regulatory relief and reform. They have shared how time is money and how the duplicitous, time-demanding and burdensome regulatory requirements were sucking away not only productivity but also money. Whilst off the tools, money is not being made. This bill gets industry back on the tools, getting the job done and opening up more work, along with financial sustainability.

I am honoured to have been able to represent my communities' construction industry concerns and to be part of the government that is actually willing to respond and implement measures that facilitate answers to their calls for help. Of course customers, too, will now have options on how they interact with the QBCC. They can opt to liaise electronically, by post or in person at a regional service centre.

Coming from regional Queensland, I welcome the inclusions within this bill that implement reviewing the Queensland Home Warranty Scheme's insurance threshold cover amounts, timeframes and the establishment of consistent implementation of timeframes for future National Construction Code updates.

In closing, I also wish to highlight that, whilst all of these data-sharing systems have been operating successfully between other regulators for some time, this bill directs the department to review operation of the construction industry system after two years—again, another responsible measure implemented by a responsible LNP Crisafulli-led government. I commend this bill to the House.