




Speech By
Glen Kelly

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

Record of Proceedings, 20 November 2025

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

Second Reading

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (8.15 pm): I rise to speak on the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill is an important one for my electorate with its small communities that rely heavily on doing things with your hands rather than working in an office. A lot of the kids in the schools in my electorate will be people who go off into the trades that build and create things and will help become part of our construction industry when they finish their schooling. I have always said that I am not here for myself; I am here for the next generation. Not only will this bill help those already in the construction industry; the benefits will flow on for that next generation. By modernising our licensing systems for the construction industry, we reduce the regulatory burden on our builders, meaning they will have more time to do what they do best—that is, building things—rather than having to navigate stacks of paperwork.

Removing paper-based requirements and digitalising QBCC services makes it easier for our builders to perform their relevant compliance checks. We are moving forward with reducing the red tape that has strangled our construction industry and contributed to the massive increases in housing prices that have made the dream of owning a home unreachable for a lot of our younger generations. Digitalising services means that a tradie living somewhere like Sarina will be able to apply online rather than have to find time during their day to drive to the post office to post the paperwork. Having online submissions means that renewals and approvals can be processed faster, rather than having the cumbersome process of waiting for a back and forth via post, as well as removing the risk of a renewal getting lost somewhere in the postal system.

Governments should be making it easier for young people to get their own home, not making it harder. We have already been doing that through our Residential Activation Fund, unlocking development sites for thousands of homes across the state. We did that through earlier tranches by eliminating annual financial reports for 97 per cent of QBCC licensees. That is roughly 50,000 small contractors, helping free them from even more of a paperwork burden. Many of these would be small builders. By lightening the load on the smallest operators, we are making sure they can focus on what they do best—that is, building homes and training new apprentices to ensure we have the next generation of builders coming through. Providing options for how people interact with the QBCC will enable people to use the way that best works for them. For those who may not be as proficient with computers, there will still be options to deal with it by post or through regional service centres.

We are streamlining reporting requirements for workplace safety notifications. Since 2017, licensees were required to notify both the QBCC and the Office of Industrial Relations about serious workplace incidents on a building site. With the QBCC and the Office of Industrial Relations now having mutual data-sharing arrangements in place, this duplication of reporting will now be removed without

compromising safety. These notifications are important to help protect workers, but having to fill out two reports is needless additional paperwork. Removing this—but still requiring they notify the Office of Industrial Relations if they are a QBCC licensee—will simplify this process. It means that safety incidents are still reported, but it removes additional unnecessary paperwork through the QBCC receiving the necessary information through interagency data sharing.

We are getting on with making sure that our builders are able to do more of what they do best—building the homes for tomorrow instead of filling out multiple copies of the same paperwork. We are increasing the penalty for noncompliance from 80 penalty units to 100 penalty units, ensuring workplace safety is taken seriously, but we are not just setting and forgetting. The department will be required to review operations to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of these arrangements and look after safety on our work sites.

I take worker safety seriously. A lot of my constituents work in jobs where they face risks every day on their job site. I know they would be concerned about the impact of this bill on safety, but by removing duplication we can remove regulatory burden without impacting worker safety. For our next generation, for the young families in Mirani, ensuring we bring down the cost of building is one of the biggest issues. Having a place to live was becoming harder in this state as those opposite pushed up the regulatory compliance in our industry. Forcing builders to fill out forms means more labour is being spent filling out forms instead of being on the tools. We are committed to making sure the dream of home ownership becomes more achievable for younger families. The cost of housing has far outpaced the increase in incomes. While these reforms may not have monumental effects, in conjunction with what we have already done it will still have an impact on bringing down those costs. Every dollar counts when it comes to buying your first home.

As a sixth-generation farmer, I know firsthand how regulatory compliance can make things harder and how you lose time and productivity filling in the forms rather than doing what you would like to be doing at the time; that is, being out in the paddock working hard. I know how much difference a small change can make. Often these compliance measures are designed by people who have not worked in the industry. They have not been informed by a lived experience of having to navigate paperwork that is often well intentioned. It can make no sense to those on the ground actually doing the hard work and the day-to-day chores. The Crisafulli government is committed to improving productivity in our construction industry—not hampering it. This bill does that by modernising our compliance systems, by digitalising services and reducing the duplication of paperwork. This all translates into more houses for the people of Queensland in the electorate of Mirani. My constituents in Mirani come first and I commend this bill to the House.