



Speech By **Janelle Poole**

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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QUEENSLAND BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (8.23 pm): In communities like mine in Mundingburra, building and construction it is more than just industry; it is the heartbeat of local jobs, apprenticeships, small businesses and the livelihood of families. When the building sector is strong, our whole community benefits. When government systems get in the way the impact is felt immediately on work sites, in homes waiting to be built and across local supply chains. That is why the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 is so important. This bill will deliver practical, commonsense reforms that let our tradies do what they do best—build Queensland.

For too long the QBCC has been held back by outdated processes. Builders and home owners have had to navigate paper-driven, manual and often duplicated steps that belong in another era. After a decade under Labor, Queensland became the least productive state in delivering new projects. We will not as a government continue down that path.

This bill brings the QBCC into the modern world. It enables digital licensing, online attendance and electronic communication without taking away any of the traditional options. Tradies who want a physical licence can still get one. People who prefer to deal with the QBCC in person or by post can continue to do so. This is flexibility in action. It gives our licensees more choice—not less—and for regional Queensland, where connectivity, distance and workload shape how our tradies operate, this flexibility is absolutely essential.

This bill also tackles one of the sector's biggest frustrations—duplicate safety reporting. At present, licensees must report the same serious incident twice, once to the Office of Industrial Relations and once to the QBCC. Duplicating reports does not make work sites safer. What keeps people safe is accurate information reaching the right regulators quickly and reliably. Under this bill, licensees will continue to report serious incidents to the OIR. The QBCC will automatically receive that information through secure, tested data-sharing systems. I want to be really clear: safety obligations do not change. Penalties will increase, reporting still happens and oversight remains strong. This is about improving the process and not about reducing responsibility.

I want to clarify a few questions that have been raised in the chamber today. Does the bill weaken workplace safety? No, absolutely not. Rules stay the same, penalties increase and the QBCC still receives every serious incident report. Why change the 2017 system? Because duplicating reports is unnecessary when regulators can securely share data automatically. Can people still use physical licences or postal communication? Yes, absolutely they can, if that is their choice. Digital tools are an option; they are not mandatory.

These reforms build on earlier stages of the building regulation renovation which have already cut red tape. They have paused unnecessary trust account requirements and reduced financial reporting burdens and it has given our tradies more certainty. For Mundingburra and for all of North Queensland, this bill means greater efficiency. It means more clarity and more time for tradies to focus on what they do best—their work, not forms. It supports our apprentices, our small contractors, our subcontractors and every local business that is connected to the building sector. It strengthens safety, it modernises systems and it lays the foundation for faster, more confident building across our state. I would like to thank the Minister for Housing and Public Works for listening to communities like mine in the regions.

Mr Crandon: Isn't he great?

Mrs POOLE: Absolutely. I take that interjection; he is a great Minister for Housing and Public Works. For visiting Mundingburra, thank you, and for fighting to deliver these reforms, thank you so very much. This bill is practical, it is sensible and it is long overdue. It fixes Labor's outdated, paper-heavy system. It removes unnecessary duplication and it supports our local tradies and businesses. It will help Queensland, including regional communities like mine, build better and build safer. For the majority of my working life I have been in the business of safety—of keeping our community safe—and I now continue that role as the member for Mundingburra. Everything this government does is about making our communities safer. That is what this bill does. I commend the bill to the House.