



Speech By  
**John Barounis**


**MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH**

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

### **Second Reading**

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (6.10 pm): I rise today to speak on the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The Crisafulli LNP government is making it easier to build in Queensland. We are modernising Queensland's building and construction sector through a comprehensive and practical reform agenda—an agenda designed to position Queensland as the building capital of the nation.

The bill delivers long-overdue updates to the QBCC to make it a more productive, user-friendly and efficient regulator. It will remove outdated paper-based requirements and clear the way for digital licensing, online attendance and electronic communication. It will streamline workplace safety notifications, removing duplication without reducing safety obligations or oversight. These changes will strengthen safety, lift productivity and respond directly to industry feedback to make it easier to build within Queensland.

I am seeing an increase in tradespeople who are seeking support. They are brilliant at their jobs; however, the outdated rules of the QBCC leave them feeling frustrated and in despair just trying to complete the paperwork that the QBCC requires to update licences. A local tradesman I have been trying to assist in my electorate of Maryborough is Josh. He has been trying all year to complete the required paperwork to upskill for his builder's licence. He has completed years of practical experience, but when it comes to deciphering what QBCC wants from him he is lost in a sea of fancy words and what appear to be strange requests. Last week he again met with me to inform me that QBCC had rejected his application. He has wasted time and money on an application that is just far too difficult to complete. This is not good enough. Josh is one of many tradespeople who have brilliant and creative minds but who are lost within the system, and he is on the verge of giving the building game away. Why? The current laws, which the former Labor government introduced, are failing him, with unnecessary paperwork that he just does not understand.

Labor allowed the QBCC to fall so far behind that the 2022 independent review had to call out the lack of digital transformation. The Labor Party did not modernise a thing. While the industry asked for practical reform, Labor delivered red tape, delay and confusion. The Labor Party's approach to building regulation was more forms, more hoops, more cost and less building. Ten years of neglect by the previous Labor government has placed Queensland in the mess it is in today—not enough homes for Queenslanders. This change cannot come quick enough, as the previous Labor government has set out to destroy our building industry with ridiculous rules and requirements. Change has finally arrived with the Crisafulli LNP government. By passing this QBCC legislation, Queensland is set to thrive and flourish once again. Support needs to be given to our building industry because we most certainly need it now.

The QBCC has been working to improve efficiency and customer experience including through expanded digital service delivery. However, current legislation is largely focused on paper-based processes and does not adequately support the QBCC in providing digital services, including interacting electronically with licensees and other customers. These proposed amendments remove these legislative barriers, allowing but not requiring the QBCC to deliver services electronically.

This bill will not weaken workplace safety. Safety, the most important aspect, will remain unchanged, penalties will be increased and the QBCC continues to receive all serious incident information via secure data sharing with OIR. The consequence for noncompliance has increased from eight to 100 penalty units, reflecting the seriousness of workplace safety matters. What changes is how regulators communicate, not what must be reported. This is a regulatory efficiency measure only and it does not reduce safety obligations or the visibility of incidents to the QBCC.

The department, working with relevant regulators, has been directed to review the operation of this after two years to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of these arrangements. The opposition's argument would have Queenslanders believe that duplicating paperwork somehow makes worksites safer. This simply is not true. What really keeps people safe is timely, accurate information to the right regulators at the right time, and that is exactly what this bill delivers.

It is frustrating to see competent tradespeople sitting in my office, frustrated with dealing with the bureaucracy of the former Labor government QBCC system. The experience of local tradesperson Josh is a prime example of how the former Labor government set out to complicate a system that should be straightforward to understand. Josh is just one of many skilled workers who want to see our community and our state thrive again in the building industry, but his hands are tied due to the complicated and confusing current system within the QBCC.

The review comes at the perfect time for Queensland. With the Residential Activation Fund kickstarting our building industry, there is no better moment for the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 to be considered and passed by this parliament.

I would like to thank the Hon. Sam O'Connor, Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth, and the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee for examining and reviewing the current legislation. Also I want to thank the Crisafulli LNP government for realising there are major issues within the QBCC and for changing the legislation affecting the building industry. I commend the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 to the House.