




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 20 November 2025

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

Second Reading

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (7.46 pm): I rise today to speak in strong support of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, a crucial part of the Crisafulli government's commitment to making it easier, safer and faster to build in Queensland. This bill is built on a simple but powerful principle. When we modernise regulation, cut duplication and strengthen safety oversight we create a construction sector that supports workers, protects consumers and delivers the homes and infrastructure our communities need.

For too long Queensland's building and construction laws have lagged behind the needs of industry and the expectations of the community. Labor spent a decade building a system of overlapping, paper-heavy, outdated rules that tied up the QBCC in knots. This bill is about reversing that legacy. Through the Building Reg Reno agenda we are modernising the QBCC so it can deliver services efficiently, consistently and, importantly, digitally. This includes allowing licensees to opt for digital licenses, digital communication, online attendance and streamlined interaction with the regulator, bringing it into the 21st century. For those who prefer traditional methods, physical licences and postal communication do remain available. That is about choice, not compulsion or mandatory requirements.

As the proud mum of a tradie, a shout-out to my eldest son Josiah Dooley on launching his own private building business in the past year, providing quality renovations and maintenance carpentry. We are a family of builders. My grandfather Sid Turnbull started Turnbull Constructions in Toowoomba in the 1940s. After moving to Redcliffe it is in its third generation, with my cousin Tony Turnbull and his son Matt Turnbull still building quality homes on the peninsula and beyond.

In an electorate like mine of Redcliffe—where we have thousands of tradies, subcontractors, small building businesses and home owners navigating the QBCC system every year—this matters. Whether you are a carpenter from Margate, a tiler from Clontarf or a young apprentice from the trade college in Scarborough just getting your first licence, these reforms make dealing with the QBCC faster, simpler and less frustrating. Most importantly, it means the QBCC can focus its energy where it should: supporting high standards, safe worksites and a strong industry, not shuffling paperwork.

A key part of this bill is the reform of workplace safety incident reporting. In 2017 changes required licensees to notify both the QBCC and the Office of Industrial Relations about serious incidents—a duplication which was introduced to address the tragic death of Mr Jason Garrels, and I acknowledge his father in the gallery tonight. Those interventions were honourable, but today mature information-sharing arrangements now exist between regulators so this bill removes the requirements for double reporting while maintaining all safety obligations and all oversight.

Let's be very clear: this bill does not reduce safety; it strengthens it. The requirement to report serious incidents remains unchanged. The penalty for failing to report increases from 80 to 100 penalty units, reflecting the seriousness of workplace safety. The QBCC will continue receiving the same information through secure, automated data sharing rather than duplicative forms.

In Redcliffe this is not an abstract policy change. Safety on construction sites is a real and ongoing concern. On the peninsula, construction is booming, with new housing, medium-density development, renovations and upgrades to small businesses. Every day, workers in Redcliffe climb scaffolding, handle heavy machinery and operate in high-risk environments. What keeps them safe is clear, timely information sent to the right regulator at the right time, not filling out the same form in duplicate. Removing duplication means incidents can be investigated faster. It means employers can act sooner. It means regulators have a clearer picture of what is going on. This is how we protect our workers, this is how we honour the memory of those who have tragically been lost and this is how we prevent future tragedies.

Our local builders and tradies tell me regularly that what they want is for government to get out of the way and let them get on with the job, while still ensuring the highest safety standards. This bill delivers exactly that. Through our earlier Building Reg Reno reforms—tranches 1 and 2—we have already: scrapped annual financial reporting for around 50,000 licensees; paused the trust account rollout for smaller private projects; reduced administrative burden; extended deadlines for fire protection workers to meet their training requirements; and cut red tape for plumbers undertaking certain fire protection work. In Redcliffe, where most construction companies are small, locally owned, family operated businesses, these reforms represent thousands of dollars in savings and dozens of hours freed up each year—time that can be spent employing apprentices, completing jobs and supporting building projects.

Tranche 4 will continue this transformation by: reviewing licensing thresholds; improving dispute resolution; harmonising processes for National Construction Code updates; and ensuring the Queensland Home Warranty Scheme remains fit for purpose. These reforms will provide certainty to home owners and builders alike, and this is very important for our growing peninsula community, where housing supply remains a key priority.

Some have argued that safety reporting amendments could weaken accountability. That argument is simply inaccurate. What we are doing is ensuring regulators communicate effectively without unnecessary duplication and delays. Information will not be lost, incidents will not go unnoticed, safety standards will not be diminished and the arrangements will be reviewed after two years to ensure they are delivering exactly what they should.

In conclusion, this bill protects workers, empowers industry and will help build Queensland's future—the houses we need in Redcliffe, the Moreton Bay Youth Foyer and the Olympic and Paralympic Games infrastructure. The Crisafulli government is committed to making Queensland the building capital of the nation and to doing that safely, efficiently and responsibly. For Redcliffe, this bill means: safer construction sites, including the Redcliffe Hospital expansion plan; more homes, including social, affordable and supportive housing; faster regulatory processes; less red tape for tradies; more efficient investigations of incidents; and better outcomes for home owners and consumers.

We are modernising the QBCC, embracing digital service delivery and streamlining safety reporting without compromising worker protections. This is a practical, commonsense bill. It reflects what industry has asked for and it strengthens safety. I thank Minister O'Connor and his team for their work on this bill and for introducing it to the House. It makes sense and it makes it easier to build in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.