

Question on Notice
No. 437
Asked on Thursday, 28 March 2019

MR C WHITING ASKED MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS; MINISTER FOR DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER FOR SPORT (HON M DE BRENNI)

Will the Minister advise of the Palaszczuk Government initiatives that are exposing and pursuing fraud in the Queensland building industry?

ANSWER

On 28 February 2019, the Premier announced the establishment of a Special Joint Taskforce to investigate allegations of fraudulent behaviour relating to subcontractor non-payment in the Queensland building industry.

The Taskforce is headed by former Supreme Court Justice the Honourable John Byrne, and is staffed by detectives from Queensland Police Service, investigators from the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and prosecution staff from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Individuals or organisations can lodge confidential submissions to the Taskforce until 5pm, 17 May 2019. These submissions can be made online, by email, via post or face-to-face.

The Taskforce has appointments available for those who wish to lodge a submission in person or meet with the Taskforce in Brisbane or Capalaba, which started on 9 April 2019.

Further, starting 29 April 2019, the Taskforce will be visiting major regional locations, which will allow people across Queensland to meet with Taskforce members. These locations include Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, and the Sunshine and Gold Coasts.

Importantly, making engagement accessible to all Queenslanders is key, so people are also welcome to engage with a member of the Taskforce by phone or videoconference.

The Taskforce will receive and investigate the allegations of fraudulent behaviour, in accordance with existing laws and policies.

Where there is evidence of possible breaches of legislation, these matters will be referred to the relevant prosecuting authority with a clear expectation of action to be taken. The Taskforce will provide a report, including recommendations, to Government by 30 June 2019.

Those looking for more information about the Taskforce can visit www.qld.gov.au/specialjointtaskforce or call 13 QGOV.