

Question on Notice

No. 404

Asked on Wednesday, 22 April 2026

MS C MULLEN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS AND MINISTER FOR YOUTH (HON S O'CONNOR)—

QUESTION:

With reference to recent high-profile builder collapses and the risk that ongoing supply chain disruptions (including fuel supply issues) may further increase insolvencies and slow housing delivery—

Will the Minister advise what measures, if any, the Crisafulli Government has implemented, or is considering, to support the viability of small builders with fewer than five full time employees and reduce the risk of insolvency?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government is committed to supporting small businesses and delivering initiatives that drive innovation, investment and productivity across Queensland's building and construction industry.

The Department of Housing and Public Works and the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) continue monitoring risks and emerging trends following the Iran conflict, with a focus on the risk of higher construction costs if fuel flows through the Strait of Hormuz remain disrupted.

Last month, I brought together representatives from the building and construction industry, building product suppliers and materials manufacturers for roundtable discussions on the impacts of the Middle East conflict on Queensland's construction sector and supply chains. This engagement is helping inform the Government's ongoing response and advocacy on national supply chain pressures.

The Crisafulli Government is focussed on making it easier to build in Queensland and creating a more productive operating environment for small builders and subcontractors.

As part of this work, the Government has overhauled Queensland's procurement framework through the new Queensland Procurement Policy 2026, replacing hundreds of pages of procurement documents with a simpler and more accessible framework designed to reduce red tape, improve productivity and create greater opportunities for small and family businesses to participate in government procurement.

The Government has also permanently scrapped Best Practice Industry Conditions (BPIC), which added unnecessary complexity, increased project costs and reduced productivity across the construction sector. Through the CFMEU Inquiry, we have heard serious concerns regarding the former Labor government's approach to government contracting and procurement settings, including the impacts these arrangements had on competition, productivity and participation across the building industry. By permanently removing BPIC, the Crisafulli Government is supporting a more competitive and efficient construction industry and improve opportunities for smaller builders and subcontractors to participate in government work.

The Crisafulli Government is also making it easier to do business with the QBCC through a range of practical reforms focussed on reducing red tape, modernising services and improving customer outcomes. Under the 'Building Reg Reno', mandatory annual reporting requirements have been removed for around 50,000 licensees – approximately 97 per cent of small businesses and small traders – helping tradies spend less time on paperwork and more time on the tools. Our reforms have also supported the QBCC to expand digital licensing and modernise its licensing services, with around 40 per cent of license applications now being submitted electronically, reducing paperwork, postages and processing times for tradies and businesses across Queensland.

Under its new leadership, the QBCC has also improved complaint resolution processes and reduced compliance investigation backlogs, helping deliver a more responsive and efficient regulator for Queensland's building industry. Through practical common-sense changes, the QBCC is on target to deliver a 40 per cent reduction to compliance investigation queues by 30 June this year. Customer compliant handling has improved significantly, with first point of contact resolution increasing from 7 per cent to 30 per cent, resolving issues earlier. The QBCC's mediation and conciliation pilot is also delivering strong outcomes for both homeowners and licensees, with more than 70 per cent of matters successfully resolved through earlier intervention and average resolution times reduced to just 32 days, rather than the months and years traditional dispute resolution processes have often taken.

As part its next tranche of the 'Building Reg Reno', the Government is also progressing reforms to improve how money owed to subcontractors is managed in the event of insolvency to help subcontractors and small businesses recover payments sooner and improve confidence in the building and construction industry.

The Crisafulli Government is also supporting the future construction workforce through initiatives including the Small Business Apprenticeship Pilot Program, providing wage subsidies to Queensland small and family-owned construction businesses to support apprentice training and retention.

The Government will continue engaging closely with industry stakeholders, including small builders, suppliers and industry bodies, to monitor pressures across the sector and position Queensland as an attractive and productive place to build.