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# Palmer's man bats for subbies against the developers



Bill Hoffman | 1st Aug 2014 6:53 AM



Carl Judge, Member for Yerongpilly, has been making comment on the police cuts while visiting Mooloolaba. Photo: Iain Curry / Sunshine Coast Daily

Iain Curry

QUEENSLAND should follow NSW security-of-payment legislation to ensure construction industry sub-contractors receive what they are owed in a timely manner, according to endorsed Palmer United Party Kawana candidate Carl Judge.

*- Pleasing to hear govt will consider NSW SOP bills.*

Mr Judge sits on parliament's Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee which is considering proposed changes to the Queensland Building Construction Industry Payments (BCIP) Act.

He said that the NSW Government's Collins Inquiry into insolvency in that state's construction industry had recommended that head contractors be required to create trust bank accounts to contain money received for individual projects.

"This could be done as a measure to secure sub-contractors' payment claims," Mr Judge said.

"Frankly, regardless of the method, what the Newman Government can't do is overlook the hard-working subbies in the construction industry."

He said such a system needed to be introduced in a manner that allowed principal contractors time to adjust their business models.

Mr Judge said the government's own figures for construction industry dispute adjudications covering a range of reasons including insolvency

showed that in 32% of cases subbies ended up with no payment.

He slammed proposed amendments to the BCIP Act due in September saying they would do nothing to improve outcomes for sub-contractors.

"I'm defending and advocating for local subbies not to be ignored in the process of legislative reform dealing with payment within the construction industry," Mr Judge said.



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# Walton probe has subcontractors wondering

Bill Hoffman | 22nd May 2014 8:58 AM

WALTON Construction's liquidation and the outcome of a public examination of those involved in the \$69 million collapse is a test of the system's ability to protect subcontractors who fulfil the letter of their obligations only to be exposed to financial ruin.

That is the view of those left who are owed millions.

Walton Subcontractors Collective spokesman Les Williams said that his group remained furious that access to key Walton financial information had been lost when documents were transferred to two entities, Tantallon and Lewton Asset Services, immediately before Walton went into administration on October 4 last year.

He said his group was not confident a planned public examination of Walton sole director Craig Walton, other staff and those involved in the transfer of the documents and other key Walton assets would get to the bottom of the matter.

Complicating the issue is the as yet unresolved Federal Court appeal by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, which is seeking to overturn an earlier court decision not to sack the liquidator, PKF Lawler, formerly Lawler Draper Dillon, for failing to disclose to creditors the extent of its prior dealings with Walton's business advisors.

Tantallon, which was initially named Peloton Builders, and Lewton were established by directors of Walton business advisors the Mawson Group and took control of its contracts, intellectual property and physical assets through Asset Sale Agreements that were left unchallenged by the liquidator.

Both companies have subsequently gone into administration, further restricting access to critical Jobpac files that carry the fine financial detail of the state of Walton's numerous construction projects in the months leading up to its insolvency.

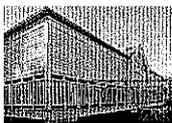
Proceedings have been issued in the Federal Court of Australia and will lead to summonses being served on a number of people involved in Walton's management and the creation of the Asset Sale Arrangements.

The Queensland Government has provided financial support to help fund the action.

Mr Williams said subcontractors had been told by the liquidator that they would be briefed on who would be called to give evidence, but they had no say in that process.



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