



Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen
Minister for Public Works and Procurement

Our Ref: MN06032-2022

21 JUL 2022

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to e-petition number 3700-22 titled 'Substitution of the Government's Review of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) with a Commission of Inquiry headed by an interstate Supreme Court Judge'. The e-petition was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 21 June 2022.

QBCC Governance Review 2022

In November 2021, the Queensland Government announced the Department of Energy and Public Works (DEPW) had commissioned an independent review into the governance arrangements of QBCC. The Governance Review was a comprehensive review of QBCC's governance arrangements to ensure they were contemporary, fit-for-purpose and reflect best practice for a regulator.

Mr Jim Varghese AM, an independent and well-respected professional and Chancellor of Torrens University, led the independent review. Mr Varghese was highly qualified to do this job, having worked in the private and public sectors, including both federal and state government agencies, and had undertaken previous independent reviews.

Terms of Reference (ToR)

As outlined in the ToR, the purpose of the review was to examine the roles and responsibilities of QBCC and the Queensland Building and Construction Board, along with policies, procedures, and practices, to ensure QBCC's governance arrangements reflect best practice for a building regulator. The review also built on work already undertaken by QBCC to improve procedures and systems as it transitions into being an insights-driven regulator and review its dispute resolution and decision-making processes.

The ToR did not include investigating allegations of criminal conduct or misconduct as there are existing avenues available for these types of matters. Allegations of corruption and criminal behaviour by employees of government and public sector agencies should be directed to Queensland's anti-corruption body, the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) as it is the appropriate body to investigate these types of complaints. Further information about CCC's responsibilities and how to make a complaint can be found at www.ccc.qld.gov.au or contacting CCC on 1800 061 611.

Matters relating to official misconduct by government departments and agencies are investigated by the Queensland Ombudsman. Information about the complaints process is available on the Queensland Ombudsman website or by phoning (07) 3005 7000 during business hours.

QBCC Governance Review Report 2022 (the Review Report) and Queensland Government response

On 12 May 2022, Mr Varghese delivered the report to DEPW. The Queensland Government has released its response to the Report's recommendations and supports the overall intent of the recommendations. A 90-day action plan has also been developed, which is focussed on implementation. These are available at www.epw.qld.gov.au/about/initiatives/qbcc-governance-review.

The Queensland Government is prioritising actions that strengthen the conflicts of interest framework, and improve transparency, impartiality, fairness, and consistency in QBCC's decision-making processes. Implementation progress will be reported regularly through the DEPW website.

Other priorities include separating the functions of the mediation, resolution, and review unit from QBCC licensing and compliance functions, as well as ongoing staff training to deliver a regulator with a clear focus on outcomes and customer service.

I trust this information is of assistance, and I thank the petitioners for their interest in this important issue.

Yours sincerely



Mick de Brenni MP
Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen
Minister for Public Works and Procurement