



Minister for Housing and Public Works

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Dear Licensee

QBCC licensees could save thousands of dollars a year thanks to changes passed through Parliament earlier this week.

Among the key reforms are changes that will see thresholds for self certification doubled, discounted three year licence options, tougher penalties for those who don't pay their subbies, and an early dispute resolution model to help keep disputes out of QCAT wherever possible.

New minimum financial requirements

For the first time since 2006, the limits for self-certification categories have increased. Revenue limits have doubled to \$200,000 for trade contractors only and \$600,000 for entry level builders.

These changes mean licensees in those categories will no longer have to go through the expense of providing financial statements every time they renew their licence. These changes are likely to save contractors around \$3000 per year.

Three year licence renewals

The licensing system is also being updated allowing licences to be renewed every three years instead of annually. Licensees who sign up for three year renewals will receive a 17% discount.

Early dispute resolution

There will also now be a free, mandatory mediation process within the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Commission) to help licensees and consumers resolve disputes. This process is a win for all involved because it saves both parties from going to the expense of getting legal advice and then fighting the matter out in the Queensland Civil Administrative Tribunal (QCAT). An early trial of this process has been operating since July with most disputes being processed within 15 days, as opposed to an average of 28 weeks in QCAT.

Better protection for subcontractors

The changes also provide greater protections for subcontractors by making it an offence punishable by the Commission for a contractor to not pay subbies in accordance with a contract. Contractors who do the wrong thing can face stiff penalties including possibly having their licence suspended.

These amendments deliver the Government's strong plan to overhaul supervision of the building construction industry in Queensland and provide significant benefits to both contractors and consumers.

For more information about these and other changes underway at the Commission please call its customer contact centre on 139 333 (open 24/7) or visit www.qbcc.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Tim Mander MP
Minister for Housing and Public Works