



Building Services Authority

MEDIA STATEMENT

25 August, 2011

Alleged unlicensed contractor ordered to surrender passport

A man charged by the Building Services Authority with 44 offences was today ordered to surrender his passport and to refrain from coming within 100 metres of any international point of departure.

In Brisbane Magistrates Court today, Brenton Wayne Butler, sole director of Simply Bathrooms Pty Ltd, was alleged to be a flight risk by the BSA, on the basis that he had begun liquidating his assets and was rumoured to be moving overseas.

The BSA issued a public warning about Mr Butler, Simply Bathrooms Pty Ltd and a number of Simply Bathrooms-related entities in February this year.

BSA General Manager, Ian Jennings, said Mr Butler faced several counts of unlicensed contracting and multiple breaches of both the *Queensland Building Services Authority Act 1991* and the *Domestic Building Contracts Act 2000*.

In the court, Mr Butler confirmed he had purchased a one-way ticket to Manila but said he intended to continue doing business in Australia and to return to face the charges. He advised the court that he intended to contest some of the charges and admit others.

The BSA submitted that as Mr Butler faced up to \$500,000 in fines and had confirmed he would be going overseas for an indefinite period, it was appropriate that bail conditions be imposed.

The court ordered the surrender of Mr Butler's passport and restrictions on him approaching international departure points and applying for travel documents. His name was also placed on a watch list.

Mr Jennings said he believed the restrictions reflected how serious the court and the BSA were about eliminating unlicensed contracting.

"Work done by unlicensed contractors is not up to the standards of licensed contractors, and this can lead to financial loss and great inconvenience to consumers, as well as depriving licensed contractors of work," he said.

"The BSA intends to ensure Mr Butler appears in relation to these charges and, if found guilty, pays any penalty imposed by the court."

The next hearing on this matter has been set down for 24-26 October, 2011.

ENDS

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