



MEDIA STATEMENT

26 August, 2016

Total fines for shed masterminds close to \$270,000

Paul De Bruin, Johnathan Melein, and their companies, LBM Projects Pty Ltd and DMV Ipswich Pty Ltd, were fined close to \$270,000 for unlawful building work and other related offences in Southeast Queensland.

Commissioner for the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC), Brett Bassett, said that the men were also ordered to pay more than \$80,000 restitution to home owners and the Queensland Home Warranty Scheme, which is managed by the QBCC, for claims paid as a result of the defective building work.

“The men took deposits and progress payments from unsuspecting home owners, but failed to do the work,” he said.

Mr Bassett said that De Bruin, Melein and the two companies were prosecuted by the QBCC and convicted of 150 offences committed between August, 2014 and January, 2015.

The matters were heard at Magistrates Courts in Beenleigh, Ipswich, Brisbane and Caboolture between December, 2015 and July, 2016.

“It is a sorry state of affairs that unscrupulous individuals seek to take advantage of others but the QBCC will take action against those found doing the wrong thing, to protect consumers and the local building industry.

“Anyone looking to engage an entity to carry out building work is best protected by using a QBCC-licensed individual or company, regardless of the size of the job.

“The QBCC’s home warranty insurance scheme helps to protect home owners who have contracted with a licensed builder if things do not go according to plan,” Mr Bassett said.

To check an entity’s credentials, use the free licensee search on the QBCC website at www.qbcc.qld.gov.au or call the QBCC (24/7) on 139 333.

Please note: QBCC decisions can be subject to appeal or review.

ENDS

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