

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **\$200,000 in fines for Ipswich shed masterminds**

More than \$200,000 in fines have been handed down for unlicensed building activity in a big win for vulnerable home owners in the Ipswich, Beenleigh and Brisbane areas,

A prosecution brought by the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) has seen Paul DeBruin, Johnathan Melein, DMV Ipswich Pty Ltd and LBM Projects Pty Ltd, convicted and collectively fined \$201,500 for unlicensed building activity that affected six home owners.

The men were also ordered to pay restitution of more than \$50,000 to the home owners and the QBCC. Failure to pay could result in imprisonment.

From June 2014 to February 2015, the offenders contracted to supply and build sheds, carports and garages for which they demanded and took payment but did not carry out the work.

Mr DeBruin, who was responsible for setting up both companies, was charged with 50 offences as an individual, whilst Mr Melein was charged with 38 offences.

The QBCC also laid multiple charges against both companies.

QBCC Acting Commissioner, Kellie Lowe, said that the case emphasised the need to ensure building work was only carried out by licensed individuals and, in all cases, for home owners to only make payments according to the terms of their contract.

Ms Lowe said home owners could call the QBCC 24/7 on 139 333 or visit [www.qbcc.qld.gov.au](http://www.qbcc.qld.gov.au) to check the licence credentials of anyone they are considering contracting to perform building work.

Free downloadable contracts are also available from the QBCC website.

ENDS

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