

31 May 2023

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Hon Mick de Brenni MP
Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen
Minister for Public Works and Procurement
GPO Box 2457
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Email: epw@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister,

LICENSING OF WATERPROOFING

I am writing to seek your assistance to address an important policy issue contributing to the high level of defective waterproofing work in Queensland.

For many years defective waterproofing work has been reported by QBCC as one of the top 10 most common forms of defective work. This has remained so despite a robust technical qualification that includes emphasis on practical skills, a strong theory component and candidate referee checks.

Unfortunately, the cost of rectifying defective waterproofing work is typically high. This arises due to the consequential damage that defective waterproofing causes to wall framing, flooring, plastering and cabinetry, as well as the need to remove and replace tiles as part of rectification. The cost of repair further increases where there is a platform floor and consequential damage to rooms below.

An issue we believe is contributing to the high levels of defective waterproofing in Queensland is that waterproofing work is not regulated or licensed under the *Queensland Building and Construction Act 1991* (QBCC Act) if the value of the work is \$3,300 or less. The value of waterproofing work is often below this threshold for an average bathroom.

The result is that a large portion of waterproofing work carried out in Queensland is not required to be carried out by a licenced contractor. While licensed builders will engage licensed subcontractors, should that subcontractor carry out defective work they will not be held accountable by the regulator for their defective work if the value is below \$3,300, as it is not 'building work' able to be regulated by the QBCC.

Master Builders respectfully requests that the Queensland Government reduce the threshold value for waterproofing to be licensed and regulated under the QBCC Act from \$3,301 to zero dollars. This would align waterproofing work with plumbing and drainage work, which also has a zero dollar threshold.


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Thank you for considering this submission and we look forward to your response in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Bidwell
CEO