



Hon Simon Finn MP
Member for Yeerongpilly



**Queensland
Government**

Ref: DPW02261/11

Minister for Government Services
Building Industry and Information
and Communication Technology

Mr N Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 15 June 2011 regarding petition No. 1603-11 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on behalf of Ms Desley Boyle MP, Member for Cairns, requesting that legislation be enacted that requires the registration and licensing of quantity surveyors, ensuring that registered quantity surveyors have the relevant degree of qualifications and experience.

I am advised that under the *Queensland Building Services Authority Act 1991* (QBSA Act), if a quantity surveyor performs certain tasks in relation to building work, they are required to hold the appropriate licence for the work. The tasks where a licence is required include:

- acting as a superintendent or superintendent's representative, construction manager or project manager under a contract in relation to building work
- physically performing or supervising the performance of building work;
- entering into a contract to carry out building work
- coordinating the scheduling of building work by contractors including acting as agent
- preparing tender documentation, calling and selecting tenders for building work
- arranging and conducting on-site meetings and inspections for building work;
- arranging certificates to be issued in relation to building work
- providing technical advice about building work
- carrying out management or administration services usually carried out by a licensed builder
- certification in relation to quality of building work.

A quantity surveyor who performs work as part of their professional practice, other than the work listed above, does not require a licence to carry out the work. The following work does not require a licence:

- preparing tender documentation, calling and making recommendations only for the selection of tenders
- measurement and pricing of quantities
- making recommendations and issuing certificates on timing and costs.

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There are no other licensing requirements currently imposed on quantity surveyors in Queensland, however, I understand that employers may require applicants to be eligible for membership of the Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors.

I am also advised that quantity surveyors are not registered or licensed in most Australian States and Territories and such a proposal has not been included on the agenda of the Business Regulation and Competition Working Group of the Council of Australia Governments (COAG).

The Queensland Government has committed to ensuring that all regulatory processes are consistent with COAG principles including ensuring, in accordance with the Competition Principles Agreement Queensland, that legislation should not restrict competition unless it can be demonstrated that:

- the benefits of the restrictions to the community as a whole outweigh the costs
- the objectives of the regulation can only be achieved by restricting competition.

There are no current proposals to introduce legislation which requires the registration and licensing of quantity surveyors in Queensland however, I have asked the Department of Public Works to consider this matter further.

I trust this information addresses the matter raised in the petition.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Finn', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Simon Finn MP
**Minister for Government Services,
Building Industry and
Information and Communication Technology**