

Executive Summary

On 28 November 2024, the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024 (Bill) was introduced by the Honourable David Janetzki MP, Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership and was referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee (committee) for detailed consideration.

The objective of the Bill is to establish the Queensland Productivity Commission (Commission) as an independent statutory body, formalising its operational independence from government.

The Bill provides for the Commission to:

- undertake inquiries into economic and social issues, regulatory matters or legislation as directed by the Minister
- undertake research into economic and social issues, regulatory matters or legislation as directed or approved by the Minister or on its own initiative
- administer, monitor and review regulatory matters as directed by the Minister, and
- provide advice to the Minister as requested.

Stakeholders and subscribers were invited to make written submissions on the Bill, with the committee receiving 21 submissions. A public briefing was held on 11 December 2024 with representatives of Queensland Treasury. This was followed by a public hearing held on 17 December 2024 in Brisbane to speak with submitters and Queensland Treasury representatives.

The key issues raised during the committee's examination of the Bill, included:

- establishment of the Commission, particularly its functions and governance
- conduct of inquiries, research and administration of regulatory matters under direction, particularly in relation to confidentiality, performance and the power to require information
- research conducted on the Commission's own initiative, particularly in relation to independence and transparency
- Ministerial directions and reporting.

The committee is satisfied that the Bill gives sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and the institution of Parliament, and that any limitations of human rights, as set out in the *Human Rights Act 2019*, are reasonable and justifiable. The explanatory notes contain the information required by Part 4 and a sufficient level of background information and commentary to facilitate understanding of the Bill's aims and origins.

The committee made one recommendation, found at page vi of this report. The committee recommended the Bill be passed.