

Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024

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Committee Secretariat
Governance, Energy and Finance Committee
Parliament House
George St
BRISBANE QLD 4000

BY POST/EMAIL – GEFC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write in response to your Committee's call for submissions on the recently introduced *Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024*.

the Institute is Queensland's leading peak body for the state's property industry, backed by a 10 year standing Research Foundation and a regional branch structure comprised of twelve local branches throughout the length and breadth of Queensland.

The Institute strongly supports the re-establishment of the Queensland Productivity Commission for a broad range of reasons relating to the housing needs of the Queensland community. Not only does the Institute agree that productivity underwrites prosperity, the Institute is specifically of the view that productivity is a key factor influencing the pace and cost of new housing delivery. Further, the industry strongly supports the intention for the Commission's first task to be a comprehensive review of the Queensland construction industry.

In reviewing the Bill, the following features have attracted the Institute's broad support:

- the stated functions of the Commission
- the Commission's independence as ensured through its establishment as an independent statutory authority
- the Commission's capacity to undertake inquiries both as directed by the Minister and on its own initiative
- the requirement or the Commission to undertake public consultation on matters under inquiry
- the Commission's powers to require, subject to some exemptions, information and research from a range of relevant entities including government agencies, (including a department, authority, commission, corporation, instrumentality or office), local government, or a local government company
- the measures to protect the confidentiality of information disclosed.

The matter of confidentiality is of particular importance to industry. As a peak body, we are well placed to provide comprehensive summaries of the issues affecting our members and the legislative and regulatory environment in which they operate. However, as individuals our members have long expressed a strong reticence to provide identifying information for fear of retribution from other parties. For this reason, we recommend the Commission establish a suitable channel to obtain specific examples and case studies on a confidential basis. We note that the Fair Work Ombudsman and Fair Work Commission offer the potential of submitting an anonymous report allowing individuals and organisations to detail concerns without fear of reprisal. We recommend this Bill be amended to include articulation of the intent to establish similar functionality.

In closing, I would also like to take this opportunity to express our ongoing interest in this matter and strong interest in providing further elaboration of our views at the Committee's public hearing on the Bill on 17 December 2024. Should you have any queries on this matter, I can be contacted at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,

Urban Development Institute of Australia Queensland



Kirsty Chessher-Brown
Chief Executive Officer