



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**

**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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**QUEENSLAND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION BILL**

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (5.36 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill. The establishment of this body is another important part of forging an economy that is strong, growing and diversified. It is also part of forging an economy that adds to the quality of life of working Queenslanders. The Productivity Commission will provide independent economic and policy advice to the state with the goal of increasing productivity as well as improving the living standards of Queenslanders and driving economic growth.

The Queensland Productivity Commission will go wider than the traditional economic scope that we may usually expect from such a body. It will be looking at improving living standards. The Queensland Productivity Commission will look at not just how something will improve productivity but also its impacts on living standards, employment and real wages.

Certainly, I do like the breadth of the approach of this bill. I think it recognises that the economic wellbeing of the state is not just created by the people we see on the business pages in the newspaper; it is also created by the families around the kitchen tables of Queensland homes, it is created by the mums and dads who volunteer their time helping out at the junior sports clubs and it is created by the grandparents who spend a lot of their time looking after their grandkids while the parents are at work. The Queensland Productivity Commission will help us make sure that we have productivity growth and that it is benefiting the working Queenslanders who create it.

As we know, the Queensland Productivity Commission is already at work. It has been operating since 1 May 2015 as a government entity under the Public Service Act. It has commenced an inquiry into electricity prices and is also conducting an inquiry into a fair price for solar. It is investigating the public and private benefits of rooftop solar, including the social, economic and environmental benefits. As we know, it is also undertaking a regulatory and economic impact assessment of the Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Bill 2015, introduced by the member for Mount Isa.

Productivity is the key. It drives long-term economic prosperity. Productivity is the single most important determinant of our living standards. In Queensland about half of all per capita growth over the last 30 years has been attributable to productivity growth. We have to keep looking for productivity gains and see where they can be made, and that is why the Queensland Productivity Commission will be so important. It is another component of that broader plan to grow and diversify our economy and create jobs now and jobs into the future and it complements the other recent components of our plan—Advance Queensland, the new draft infrastructure plan and Building Queensland—which will help create that infrastructure pipeline for the future. The Palaszczuk Labor government plan and its components such as this are all designed to grow and diversify Queensland's economy to, as I said, provide jobs now and for the future.