



Speech By  
**Hon. David Janetzki**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2024

## **QUEENSLAND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION BILL**

### **Message from Governor**

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (11.50 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from Her Excellency recommends the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

#### MESSAGE

QUEENSLAND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION BILL 2024

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

I, DR JEANNETTE ROSITA YOUNG AC PSM, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—


A Bill for an Act to establish the Queensland Productivity Commission

#### GOVERNOR

Date: 28 November 2024

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 28 November 2024, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024 [207](#).

### **Introduction**

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (11.52 am): I present a bill for an act to establish the Queensland Productivity Commission. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024 [208](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024, explanatory notes [209](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024, statement of compatibility with human rights [210](#).

Productivity underwrites prosperity. Queensland's standard of living is derived from how productive we are. The challenge for Queensland in the 21st century is clear. We cannot hope to maintain our high standard of living without turning around our declining productivity. To remain prosperous we must be an open, trading state that is highly productive. We cannot hide behind tariff walls and we cannot hide behind sweetheart union deals if we want to succeed this century.

Unfortunately, under the previous government productivity settings had us heading in the wrong direction. Productivity slowed before going into neutral and then in many sectors into reverse. Just look at BPIC, Labor's CFMEU tax. Queenslanders paid more for less, there were billions in blowouts and many key projects have been set back years. Productivity matters.

It can be easy to dismiss productivity as an academic concept that is off in the far distance. In fact, our opponents often diminish the importance of productivity in this way, partly to hide from their own record of failure. However, the real-world effects of lower economic productivity are lower economic growth, lower wages, higher unemployment and higher inflation. In other words, the reality is that low productivity burns a hole in the hip pocket of every Queenslander. That is why today we are delivering on our election commitment to introduce legislation before the end of 2024 to re-establish the Queensland Productivity Commission.

The commission's very first task will be putting the construction industry regulation under the microscope with a comprehensive review of the construction and building industry. An independent Queensland Productivity Commission is critical to the provision of quality economic and regulatory policy advice, and that will lift productivity, improve living standards and deliver economic growth. It is, in fact, why I vowed more than two years ago to re-establish the commission—an independent body that would unleash the great potential of our economy. By introducing this bill into the House today we are delivering on that election commitment and righting the wrongs of the previous government.

In 2020 the Queensland Productivity Commission released a report demonstrating that productivity had declined under Labor since 2015. The previous treasurer abolished the commission when it provided this awkward truth that did not suit the then Labor government's narrative. The objective of our bill is to enable the commission to operate as an independent statutory body to tackle the challenges of a growing state and manage cost-of-living pressures. The bill will formalise its operational independence from government, confirm the commission's functions and mandate and put in place its corporate governance framework.

A full-time Productivity Commissioner, who will be appointed by the Governor in Council, will lead the organisation. Up to three other full-time or part-time commissioners may be appointed, depending on the commission's work program. The key role of the commission will be to undertake public inquiries and reviews and to provide advice on complex economic, social and regulatory matters referred to it by government. It will conduct inquiries through an open and transparent process informed by public consultation. The resulting findings and recommendations provided to government will be independent, of high quality and contribute to the policy development process.

The government will issue directions for inquiries and set guidance for overall resourcing. Control over report content and staffing will be retained by independent statutorily appointed commissioners. Initially, existing staff from the Office of Productivity and Red Tape Reduction will move to the commission. Overall, the commission will provide insights and direction to grow our economic prosperity. The commission will also be tasked with delivering Queensland's first intergenerational equity report, outlining the key issues Queenslanders face across generational lines and the long-term policy solutions that are needed.

Today we start the process of the rightful reinstatement of the Queensland Productivity Commission. It will play a key role in formulating the policies that lead to our state's prosperity. It delivers a key commitment from our 100-day plan and rights the wrongs of the previous Labor government. Re-establishing the commission will allow for independent economic, social and regulatory policy advice to the Crisafulli government so we can help to lift productivity, drive economic growth and enhance living standards for all Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

### **First Reading**

**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (11.57 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### **Referral to Governance, Energy and Finance Committee**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee.

## **Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date**

**Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (11.57 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 136, the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee report to the House on the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill by Friday, 31 January 2025.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.