




Speech By  
**Adam Baillie**

**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 12 March 2025

**QUEENSLAND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION BILL**

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (5.44 pm): Queenslanders voted for a fresh start. The former Queensland productivity commission was introduced by Labor in 2015 and, despite having four matters referred to it in 2015 alone, from 2016 to 2021 it had a total of seven further matters referred to it—seven matters over six years. The former productivity commission was not given the opportunity to be productive. In 2021 Labor abolished the former productivity commission and advised that its work would continue inside government agencies, depriving Queensland of the independent analysis and investigatory powers essential for maintaining accountability and transparency across key sectors within our economy.

The real-world effects of lower productivity are lower economic growth, lower wages, higher unemployment and higher inflation, and Queenslanders have suffered due to a lack of productivity. We have seen countless projects blow out as construction costs continue to skyrocket. Queenslanders have come to expect government-led projects in particular will cost more than budgeted and will take longer than committed. Our state cannot afford to continue down the path charted by the former Labor government. Productivity underwrites prosperity and we must return it to Queensland to drive down costs across industry and around the kitchen table. If we do not reverse the productivity purge in Queensland, it is businesses and families in my electorate of Townsville and right across Queensland who will pay the price. Bringing back the Queensland Productivity Commission also aligns with our commitment to respect Queenslanders' money and ease cost-of-living pressures.

The Crisafulli government is proud to deliver on a key election commitment to bring back the Queensland Productivity Commission as a direct response to a slowdown in productivity and the need for regulatory reform in critical sectors like the construction and building industry. Restoring the Queensland Productivity Commission will make a significant impact across the construction sector and benefit small, medium and large businesses alike. This is an issue close to my heart and it is particularly important for my constituents in Townsville.

Before being elected as the member for Townsville I worked as an electrical contractor, serving both commercial and domestic customers. I have seen firsthand the impact that a lack of productivity has on individual projects as well as the wider industry. Low productivity on a building site does not just blow out timelines and increase costs; it pushes every contractor working on the project under financial strain. As productivity decreases, hours required to deliver the contracted works increases which pushes up wages required to get the job done. Job delays due to low productivity on site means the carpenters, plumbers, plasterers, tilers, painters and all of the other trades, including the ever-reliable electricians, bear the burden of increased costs as work drags on or grinds to a halt. The flow-on effect can leave contractors with no choice but to let employees go, meaning fewer people working, which leads to less work being done. The bigger the job the bigger the delays and the bigger the impact on our building and construction contractors.

Queensland can no longer afford to have our building sites bogged down with onerous reporting requirements and increased compliance costs. Red tape has stifled growth and cost jobs. This is why the Queensland Productivity Commission's first order of business will be a comprehensive review of the construction and building industry. The Queensland Productivity Commission will provide independent advice on economic and regulatory matters, including cutting red tape, reducing reporting, and licensing and compliance costs, while improving efficiencies and maintaining safe working conditions. The result? A skilled and thriving industry ready to meet the needs of a growing Queensland. I am proud to deliver on this election commitment. The Queensland Productivity Commission is good for trade contractors, it is good for the construction industry, it is good for Townsville and it is great for Queensland.