




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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QUEENSLAND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION BILL

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (8.37 pm): I rise today in support of the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): I remind the House that I am very interested in what the member has to say, even if you are not.

Miss DOOLAN: It is a critical step in ensuring the prosperity and economic resilience of Queensland. Productivity is not just an abstract economic term; it is the backbone of Queensland's future. It determines the strength of our economy, the security of our jobs and the cost of living for our hardworking families. The people of Pumicestone, from Bribie Island to Beachmere, Caboolture and beyond, know firsthand the pressures that come with a growing population and increasing economic demands. They deserve a government that prioritises economic growth, job creation and financial stability.

This bill seeks to restore an essential institution—the Queensland Productivity Commission. Interestingly, it was first introduced by those opposite in 2015 yet, despite its invaluable contributions, Labor allowed it to wither. By 2021 it was abolished entirely—its functions hidden away within government agencies, away from public scrutiny and accountability. Since then we have seen the real-world consequences of weak productivity growth: lower wages, higher inflation and a housing market struggling to keep up with demand. The numbers speak for themselves. If productivity growth had remained at pre-2018 levels, Queenslanders could be earning \$11,000 more in real per capita income today. That is money that could be going towards mortgages, school fees and local businesses in Pumicestone and across the state.

In 2022 the LNP made a clear commitment to restore the Queensland Productivity Commission, and we are delivering. The bill introduced by our Crisafulli government is about securing our economic future. The re-established commission will be an independent statutory body, ensuring its findings remain free from political interference; focus on cutting unnecessary red tape, reducing costs for businesses and consumers alike; and provide transparent, evidence-based recommendations to the government, benefiting industries, workers and families across Queensland. Mr Deputy Speaker, if you are wondering, its first task was a much needed inquiry into the building and construction industry. For too long declining productivity in this sector has driven up costs and slowed progress on critical infrastructure and housing.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kempton): There is too much noise in the House.

Miss DOOLAN: Increasing efficiency here will mean more affordable homes, stronger businesses and better opportunities for Queensland families. The people of Pumicestone deserve a government that delivers real economic solutions. Whether it is small business owners in Caboolture like Red Fox

Orchids, tradies in Sandstone Point or young families trying to enter the housing market in Caboolture, productivity matters to all of us. Cutting through bureaucracy and reducing regulatory burdens will empower businesses to grow, create jobs and drive innovation. The commission's work will ensure that taxpayers' dollars are used efficiently, delivering more with less—something the previous government failed to do.

Of course, those who sit across from us will try and misrepresent the bill. They may claim the commission will lack accountability and be a political tool, but let us be clear. The commission will be independent, with statutory protections in place to prevent government interference in its findings. It will conduct public consultations, ensuring transparency and broad community input. The Treasurer cannot dictate the content of its recommendations, only refer matters for review. Contrast this with Labor's approach: shutting down an independent body and burying productivity discussions within government agencies, out of sight and beyond public scrutiny. Queenslanders deserve better.

This bill is not just about economics: it is about quality of life. It is about ensuring our hospitals, schools, roads and essential services keep up with our growing population. It is about helping families afford their homes, keeping businesses competitive and ensuring that hard work is rewarded. The Queensland Productivity Commission will provide the insights and strategies we need to drive efficiency, innovation and growth. It will help deliver a stronger, more sustainable economy not just for today but for generations to come.

I stand in full support of the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024. The people of Pumicestone and all of Queensland deserve a government that makes informed, transparent decisions to improve their everyday lives. This commission will be a critical tool in ensuring that Queensland remains a place of opportunity, growth and prosperity. Let us drive productivity and secure Queensland's future. I commend this bill to the House.