




Speech By  
**Bree James**

**MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 March 2025

**QUEENSLAND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION BILL**

 **Ms JAMES** (Barron River—LNP) (12.38 pm): Today I rise to speak on behalf of the Barron River community in support of the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill. This bill will play a pivotal role in removing the red, green and gaffer tape holding our great state back from getting things done on time and on budget. Productivity is key to success in any project. Productivity means you remove redundant tasks to be more efficient and productivity means you constantly improve things to get it done. Who does not like that feeling of having achieved things? Who does not like that feeling that you got something done in less time and for less cost than you expected? Who does not like that feeling of being productive?

From what I have seen and learned about how the government was run by the Labor Party, I am outraged at how much they stalled, the many layers of bureaucracy and time wasting and how many projects were years, if not decades, behind and often double—if not triple, if not quadruple—the projected cost. If the former government were a company they would be bankrupt, with the amount of money and time they wasted. This leads me to ask: why would a government that is supposed to represent the people of Queensland operate this way? Why would the former government put so many obstacles in the way of progress? Why would the former Labor government waste our hard-earned tax dollars? When I see bad behaviour, I look at the benefit of that bad behaviour. Behind every behaviour is a positive intention, secondary gain—or a payback, as some like to call it. It is the benefit we derive from our actions. What benefit would the Labor Party gain by having low productivity and in things costing more? Their union mates and donors get more money—that is why. Lower productivity has significantly impacted Queensland's economic growth.

The fundamental outcome that Queenslanders expect from everyone in this chamber is very simple: to be productive and to get things done. We have seen years of a lack of real results from the former government. The Crisafulli LNP government is filled with high achievers, business owners and people who want to get things done. That is why we are here. We want to be productive. What gets measured gets managed. We want to reduce the red, green, blue and gaffer tape for small businesses, companies, investors, government and private sector organisations. We on this side all agree that a productivity commission will ensure the government is productive.

I support the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill as it will ensure there is independent advice to the Crisafulli LNP government to guide our decisions. I support the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill as we need better productivity in our building sector. I support the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill as we need to unshackle our Public Service. I support the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill as we need to lower costs, lower delays and get better outcomes. I support the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill as we need to take the advice of those who will offer candid advice. This will lead to a stronger budget and will get funding where it needs to go, instead of being wasted on things like a cassowary bridge that was supposed to cost \$10 million but instead cost

\$40 million and took twice as long as it was supposed to to build. The worst thing about this project is not the time and the cost blowout. The worst thing is that not one cassowary is known to have ever crossed this bridge as it was built too steep. That is not very productive.

**Mr Stevens:** Why would you hate cassowaries?

**Ms JAMES:** Exactly. If they really loved cassowaries, they would have spent that money on their conservation—or on fixing the Bruce Highway or the Barron River Bridge. This bill is about practical solutions for real problems. It is about getting expert advice from experts to get the job done faster and in a fiscally responsible way. It is about reducing red tape, green tape, blue tape and gaffer tape. It is about fixing roads and building houses—delivering what our communities want, on time and on budget. It is about transparency and accountability in government. It is about measuring outcomes and a commitment to constant improvement. It is about ensuring Far North Queensland—in fact, all of Queensland—gets the attention and the investment that we are promised. It is about regaining the faith and trust of Queenslanders. It is about being productive for the betterment of all and stopping the fiscal vandalism of the former government. Today, I stand in support of this bill for Barron River, for Far North Queenslanders and for the future of Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.