




Speech By
Hon. David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 18 November 2025

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

CFMEU; Productivity

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (2.40 pm): First witnesses are being called today to the commission of inquiry into the CFMEU and the misconduct in the construction sector. It is an important moment for those opposite because they have an opportunity to stand on the side of the CFMEU or stand on the side of Queenslanders. Where do they stand? Those opposite have a serious track record. We have the chief apologist for the CFMEU in the member for McConnell. We have a former member of the CFMEU in the member for Bancroft. We have thank-yous to the CFMEU from those opposite in their maiden speeches. We have an important test for those opposite: do they stand on the side of the CFMEU or do they stand on the side of Queenslanders and productivity putting downward pressure on production costs to get more things built sooner? Where do they stand?

Upon our forming government, Treasury released modelling to us that said BPICs were a drag on the Queensland economy. We knew it. They were a \$17 billion drag. There was a seven per cent increase in rents. They were driving down productivity across the Queensland economy. It was not just in those large-scale projects to which BPICs applied; the consequences were flowing throughout the economy.

We started our journey with the housing minister to build a million new homes by 2044, including 53½ thousand social and community houses. We had a significant construction task ahead of us because we were left with productivity challenges from those opposite. Then we established the Productivity Commission.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I will come back to that a little later in my contribution. We set it up and the first referral to the Productivity Commission was a review into the construction sector in Queensland. What did the interim findings of that Productivity Commission report reveal? They revealed 77,000 fewer homes had been constructed since 2018 because of BPICs—77,000 fewer homes! We can imagine what those 77,000 homes would have meant for men, women and children across our state in the middle of a housing crisis, but those opposite did not care a jot about it.

We also had revealed in that interim report by the Productivity Commission that if BPICs remained on the books there would be an additional cost of up to \$20.6 billion by 2030. That is a significant drag when we have our target to build 53½ thousand social and community houses by 2034 in Queensland. That was the challenge we were left with.

Those opposite are happy to stand with the CFMEU and everything it meant for declines in productivity across this state. I recall that a Federal Court judge referred to the CFMEU as the worst recidivist in common law history. There were 2,600 order breaches over 20 years from the CFMEU

across the country. That is the kind of culture that those opposite are backing in, let alone all of their personal endorsements of the CFMEU and their actions over a long period of time.

This matters because we have to get Queensland building ahead of the massive challenges we have. We are seeing initial changes, as the housing minister has detailed already. We are seeing green shoots in productivity. We have ended BPICs, as the housing minister announced last week. We are backing in productivity not only for what it means for large-scale projects across Queensland but also for the flow-through implications right across the economy. Under our government, productivity matters. We are not going to stand by and let recidivists—the worst offenders in common law history—run the construction sector in Queensland. It is not going to happen.

The commission of inquiry, which has called its first witnesses today, will unveil all of the challenges that the CFMEU have left the Queensland economy with. They will go into it chapter and verse to identify the productivity challenges and the misconduct of those opposite. We believe in productivity. Over there, they vote against it. Former treasurer Curtis Pitt introduced a productivity commission. Under the member for Woodridge, they got rid of it. They did not want to hear any of the independent thoughts. When we re-established the Productivity Commission earlier this year, what did those opposite do? They voted against it. They will always be on the side of the CFMEU and never on the side of productivity in Queensland.