




Speech By  
**Glen Kelly**

**MEMBER FOR MIRANI**

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**QUEENSLAND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION BILL**

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (5.17 pm): On behalf of the electorate of Mirani, I am very proud to speak on the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill. Queensland is the lucky state. We are blessed with a beautiful natural environment, plenty of natural wealth in our minerals and agricultural capacities and a good climate. We are a state of opportunities and a place where people have the chance to be anything they want to be. However, that is all at risk if we do not make sure that we, as a government, create an environment that allows people and business to thrive. That is why the LNP committed to bring back the Productivity Commission: to make sure we are not needlessly hindering people from producing for our state or our nation.

Despite the natural resources that we have been blessed with, we are lagging behind. In 2023-24 we were the middle of the pack in Australian states for gross state product per capita, falling behind New South Wales and Western Australia. When the territories are included, both the ACT and Northern Territory are higher in gross state product per capita.

Queensland has the potential to be the most prosperous state in Australia and, to do that, we need to be looking at ways to increase our productivity. This can be achieved in many ways—through encouraging innovation or by making it easier to do business with Queensland. That is what this bill comes down to: re-establishing the Productivity Commission that was unfortunately wrapped up in 2021 so that we can have independent analysis into the ways we can improve our productivity. We are facing increasing costs in almost every aspect of our lives. Rather than providing short-term sugar hits that provide temporary relief, the way forward should be looking at how we can make things here in Queensland in the best way. By increasing Queensland's productivity we will be bringing down long-term costs because if our productivity growth stagnates, we will start to see prices rise. If we do not increase our productivity, we risk demand outstripping supply. Anybody with a basic understanding of economics can tell you that as demand increases without supply meeting it, the result would be increased prices to manage that.

Queenslanders have enjoyed a good quality of life but it could be better. If Queensland had maintained its pre-2018 average productivity growth, our per capita income could have been \$11,000 higher than the last financial year. This is not an amount to sneeze at. It could have helped Queenslanders get that housing deposit, seen a better ability to cope with our rapidly increasing power prices and helped many who are struggling to get by today. Queensland is facing a housing shortage. We need more housing to support our population but we also need the infrastructure that goes along with it—the roads, the power and water connections and the public amenities that make a place livable. All of this comes back to the construction industry. So much of our growth is reliant on this.

We need the construction industry to build the factories for new manufacturing. We need the construction industry to build the places for retailers to operate. We need the construction industry to build the hospitals, the police stations, the community halls and the sports facilities that our communities desperately need but they are all facing rising costs. With the construction industry only having a 17 per

cent increase in productivity since 1994-95 compared to 64 per cent in the broader market sector, this lack of productivity pushes up the cost of construction. It pushes up the cost of the facilities that our communities need. These increased costs see taxpayers paying more, it sees communities miss out on limited funds and priorities and it sees communities forgotten.

The lack of productivity we have seen in the construction industry is hurting Queenslanders. The LNP is delivering on our commitment to restore the Queensland Productivity Commission with this bill. This is vital to bringing down costs and to helping Queenslanders to do what they do best—providing for themselves, their families and one another. An independent commission will have the ability to undertake reviews of complex economic, social and regulatory issues and provide advice and recommendations to the government. This is incredibly important because it allows the government to have new ideas with proper considered analysis about how we can be doing things better, where we can improve and stop holding our state back through needless red tape. The more time it takes for someone to fill in forms and compliance obligations, the less time they have to do the work they want to be doing. By reducing the red tape that restricts business, we can bring down the cost of producing and increase our productivity rather than restricting it.

Queensland should remain a land of opportunity and continue to attract investment to our state. This is a step forward towards that. Queensland voted for real change—rather than thought bubbles around a second energy retailer to compete with the already government owned Ergon. A productivity commission will see proper considered ways forward to increase Queensland's productivity. This will put downward pressure on prices and see us push forward to continue to be the best state in Australia.