



Speech By
James Lister

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

Record of Proceedings, 12 March 2025

QUEENSLAND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION BILL

Resumed from 20 February (see p. 288), on motion of Mr Janetzki—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (11.48 am), continuing: I have been really looking forward to the resumption of this second reading debate. I missed out on finishing my speech last sitting week. I was going to get into some very interesting points but I thought I might confine myself to some very relevant rebuttals to some of the brazen untruths that emanated from the opposite side of the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Southern Downs, I am sorry to interrupt you, but I think it would be quite a good time to remind some members that they are on warnings before you get going. The members for Lytton, Bundamba, Bulimba, Cairns and Pine Rivers are on warnings until lunch. I apologise, member for Southern Downs.

Mr LISTER: There were brazen untruths and falsehoods coming from the other side surrounding the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill. I find it incredibly difficult to reconcile the polar opposites where the Labor Party is saying that there is somehow this dystopia where the Productivity Commission is accountable to no-one while at the same time these arguments are being advanced by people like the member for Woodridge who, as the former treasurer, abolished the truly independent productivity commission and instead installed those functions, so he said, within Queensland Treasury. I cannot imagine the Queensland Treasury Corporation disobeying the iron will of the member for Woodridge so to suggest that what he did at the time was somehow consistent with democracy and openness is a total nonsense.

The Productivity Commission is being instituted for the good of Queensland, and rightly so. The first thing it will be tasked with inquiring into is productivity in the building industry. Anybody who has observed construction sites where Labor's mates in the CFMEU and others are running the show will know that productivity has plummeted to unprecedented low levels.

This hurts people because if we are borrowing from our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren to build a hospital, do people not think that we should get as many hospital beds for that hospital as possible. Every time a deal is cut which favours a union that then organises for the preselection of a Labor MP to come in here and vote for what they want or puts them in the ministry or even decides that they are going to be premier that costs Queenslanders. The opportunity cost in terms of infrastructure forgone is massive, as is the amount of debt we accrue. Debt is fine when it is for infrastructure, but not if we are paying triple what we should pay for it. I think the Productivity Commission will have some vivid insights into the practices that have persisted for years under the Labor government where they put their Labor mates and their own careers ahead of the public interest in Queensland.

The member for Bundamba said during his contribution that we should let the sunshine in, as some sort of veiled criticism of this bill. I say to the member for Bundamba that the sun is shining in. It shines hot and strong on this government. In fact, we inhabit the sunlit uplands of openness and

accountability. Nothing proves that more than the fact that we did what Labor never could. We came in here and forced the release of the Jackie Trad report, which was illuminating reading. The fact that we had it, after instructing the Clerk to make it available to the House, within an hour or so shows that Labor simply cannot be taken seriously when it comes to talking about openness.

I heard the member for McConnel say that this should have the National Seniors test. She said that she has a National Seniors branch that meets in one of the pubs in her electorate and they would tell you that this is no good. I say to the member for McConnel that the world is greater than the confines of the inner city of Brisbane and if she were to for once venture out to a pub like the Queensland Hotel in Goondiwindi, the Karara Tavern, the Ballandean Pub or the Blue Cow in Allora she might find that the majority of Queenslanders actually want us to inquire into matters such as the appalling productivity and corruption in the building industry, among other things.

In my electorate I have certainly not had people bailing me up saying, 'I'm lying awake at night biting my fingernails over the independence of the new Queensland Productivity Commission.' What they want is a government that lives within its means. They want a government that runs a tight ship, respects taxpayers' money and delivers for Queenslanders and not for sectional interests like thug unions that are the paymasters and the political masters of the former Labor government.

I wholeheartedly support the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill. I look forward to seeing the fruits of its first investigation. I congratulate the Treasurer on introducing this very important legislation so early in the Crisafulli government's term.