




Speech By  
**Janelle Poole**

**MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA**

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**QUEENSLAND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION BILL**

 **Mrs POOLE** (Mundingburra—LNP) (3.42 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of the Mundingburra electorate on the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill. Sadly, I have a lack of animal references in my speech. I do apologise straight up.

Productivity is one of the key measures of an effective economy. Productivity leads to growth; it leads to higher wages, better living standards and an overall improved quality of life. This government, the Crisafulli government, values productivity and so this bill is set to reinstate a new and improved Queensland Productivity Commission.

The Queensland Productivity Commission is not a new concept; I think we have established that today. In fact, it was originally introduced by Labor in 2015. The now Leader of the Opposition said at the time that—

... the Queensland Productivity Commission will provide a vital service for the government and the state.

He also said—

It reflects this government's commitment to excellence in policymaking and its commitment to both public consultation and expert advice.

The member for Bancroft said—

We have to keep looking for productivity gains and see where they can be made, and that is why the Queensland Productivity Commission will be so important.

The former commission reviewed important matters such as electricity prices and service delivery in remote Indigenous communities. These inquiries provided recommendations from the public on these issues that after 10 years of a Labor government still remain issues. Clearly, these insights were not valued by the former Labor government as the member for Woodridge shut it down. However, our government, the Crisafulli government, values the consultation of Queenslanders and so the commission will be reinstated.

The core function of the commission will be to undertake reviews of complex economic, social and regulatory issues and provide advice and recommendations to the government. A working productivity commission will allow us to achieve what we set out to do and what Queenslanders voted for. It will provide the government with recommendations from the public on the youth crime crisis, the health crisis, the housing crisis, the cost-of-living crisis and the position that the former Labor government has left our state in. The findings will provide insight to policy that puts downward pressure on prices, increases wages and raises profits for business and industry. It will allow our government to make strategic investment in training to address Queensland's critical skilled worker shortage. We will seek opportunities for productivity gains through efficient planning frameworks, for example, unlocking land and skilled labour to help address the housing crisis.

Sadly, Queensland has overtaken Victoria as the least productive state in the delivery of new projects. In Queensland it is expected to take 4½ years to construct a high-rise building in comparison to three years in Victoria. In a housing crisis this time is a luxury that we cannot afford. That is why the first order of business for the Productivity Commission will be a review of the Queensland building industry. Because we value the opinions of those in the industry we want to ensure that they are properly consulted so that their expert opinions provide insight to the policy.

This commission will be independent from the government and this independence will be enshrined in the bill. The resulting findings and recommendations provided to government will be independent. Those opposite will say that this is not the case, that this commission will give the Treasurer additional powers. However, that was actually the objective of their government, the former Labor government, when they abolished the productivity commission: for the work to continue 'inside government agencies'. This commission will be completely independent, ensuring transparency and accountability. We are a consultative government, one that listens to the needs of Queenslanders and acts accordingly. This commission will allow us to do that.

Queensland needs its own Productivity Commission to secure our future prosperity. We must become the most productive state, not the least, to recover from the inefficiencies accumulated over the past decade under the former Labor government. We want efficiency in industry, an increase in real wages and an overall improved quality of life for all Queenslanders. That is why this bill is so important and why the Queensland Productivity Commission will be reinstated. I commend this bill to the House.