




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 28 August 2025

PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT

Crisafulli LNP Government, Performance

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.42 pm): The estimates process laid bare the direction of the Crisafulli government. It is meant to be a completely transparent process. It is meant to shine a light on the workings of government. Thankfully, Queenslanders have an effective opposition and we were able to expose the early failings of this government, despite the obstacles of endless and absurd points of order, ministers refusing to answer questions and time wasted on government Dorothy Dixers. What I heard during the estimates process was government members banging out lines that were written for them by the Premier's office and an unwillingness to answer questions, even basic questions.

The estimates hearing exposed the extraordinary workload being dumped on the office of the Small Business Commissioner. When I asked whether any additional funding had been provided to support the so-called refocusing of this office, the director-general was blunt when he said, 'There is not an allocation.' In other words, the minister has increased the responsibilities of the commissioner without a single extra dollar of support. The government expects the commissioner to do more—deliver red-tape reduction, handle dispute resolution and improve statewide engagement—while starving the office of resources. It has been set up to fail, and small businesses will be the ones that suffer.

Repeatedly throughout the hearing the minister ducked and weaved around the cutting of energy relief for small businesses and the shutting down of renewable projects and health projects. He claimed that they were outside of his public responsibility. In other words, he was saying, 'Don't ask me. Don't expect answers. Don't expect accountability,' even though he is the Minister for Small Business and should be looking out for all small businesses in Queensland.

Queensland's small and family businesses deserve better. They deserve a minister who will fight for them, not one who hides behind procedures, points of order and a pack of decks. The opposition will continue to hold this government to account for its broken promises on energy relief, its failures on timely payments, its cronyism on advisory appointments and its damaging cuts to regional projects, which have the potential to hurt small businesses and the economies of our regional centres. Behind every one of this government's bad decisions is a cafe owner in Cairns, a mechanic in Mackay, a supplier in Townsville or a family operator in Ipswich. These are the people who will pay the price—small business owners.