




Speech By
Kerri-Anne Dooley

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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QUEENSLAND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION BILL

 **Ms DOOLEY** (Redcliffe—LNP) (5.10 pm): I rise to speak in wholehearted support of the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024. Queenslanders lost trust in the former Labor government's ability to deliver on-time and on-budget projects. However, the LNP believes in respect for taxpayers' money. We took to the people of Queensland a policy platform which included 'respect for your money', and resoundingly Queenslanders voted for change. Queenslanders, including the people in my electorate of Redcliffe, want government to be accountable and transparent with the use of public funds. Queenslanders and the people of Redcliffe who are struggling with the ever-increasing cost of living want more and better services from their precious, hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

Labor was in government at a time when revenue increased significantly, but where did the money go? Productivity means more jobs, more houses and more infrastructure. We are seeing now in Queensland households the consequences of Labor's mismanagement of public funds. We are seeing the direct result of that with raging inflation, cost-of-living pressures and blowout electricity costs. The real-world effects of lower productivity are lower economic growth, lower wages, higher unemployment and higher inflation. The people of Redcliffe tell me this at their doors, on the phones and through their emails.

Had productivity growth remained at the pre-2018 average over the subsequent period, it is estimated that Queensland's real per capita income could have been \$11,000 higher in 2023-24. The construction and utilities industries have experienced little or declining productivity growth over the past 30 years, growing by less than 17 per cent since 1994-95 compared to 64 per cent in the broader market sector, according to Treasury's analysis of ABS data. This lack of productivity is costing and hurting Queenslanders. I have had many construction businesses in my electorate of Redcliffe complain about the union sweetheart deals that lock them out of tendering for projects. The construction and utilities industries have experienced this decline in productivity for too long and we say, 'No more.' This bill will help get Queensland and those businesses in my electorate open for business again and ensure large infrastructure projects are delivered on time and on budget.

It has been reported that the cost of completion of Cross River Rail has blown out by \$17 billion and that it is expected to open in the year 2029, hopefully before the 2032 Olympics. Labor promised that Cross River Rail would be delivered at a cost of \$5.4 billion and completed last year. The Crisafulli government uncovered the true cost of the rail project, and we are hoping it is completed by 2029. This is a staggering cost and time blowout—over three times what it should have been. It is a cost that mum-and-dad Queenslanders and those living in Redcliffe who are already struggling with the cost of living have to pay. Imagine what that kind of money could have bought Queenslanders. Imagine the hospitals, the schools, the houses and the roads it could build.

I mention the Redcliffe expansion plan, which is set to deliver an additional 204 beds. I stand in support of this bill for my electorate. Sadly, we have seen a blowout in the cost of the state's hospital capacity expansion plan after the true cost of delivering critical projects was revealed. Labor's blowouts

will push a nearly \$10 billion program to \$16 billion. The Crisafulli government is 100 per cent committed to the hospital expansion plan, which includes an additional 204 beds for my Redcliffe Hospital. The hospital capacity expansion plan will support building another three new hospitals and the Queensland Cancer Centre. The Crisafulli LNP government is committed to delivering these projects.

Let's talk about Cross River Rail. The average number of days worked on Cross River Rail has been 2.7 days, thanks to the BPIC rules and the sweetheart deals done by those sitting opposite. This is staggering. If only Queenslanders truly understood the waste under the former Labor government. Labor spread funding across multiple budget pools to hide the real cost of Cross River Rail. Thanks go to our Treasurer for revealing the true cost.

Restoring the Productivity Commission will help supercharge Redcliffe's and Queensland's economy by cutting red and green tape, enhancing investment and attracting new businesses to our state. In an increasingly competitive market, both nationally and internationally, this bill will help put Queensland at the forefront of choice for investment and help create a more competitive and resilient economy.

The Queensland Productivity Commission Bill has the hallmarks of independence and accountability. This independence is vital to restoring the confidence of the Queensland public in government and in the spending of public funds. I stand in support of this bill for my electorate of Redcliffe and for Queenslanders, and I commend the bill to the House.