




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

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QUEENSLAND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION BILL

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (3.25 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024, a bill that not only is crucial for our state's prosperity but also will deliver real benefits to the people of Redlands. This bill delivers on the Crisafulli government's pledge to restore the Queensland Productivity Commission, a commitment we made to Queenslanders. For my community in Redlands, this bill is about ensuring every dollar of taxpayers' money works harder and goes further. It is about creating opportunities for local businesses to grow, cutting red tape that holds them back and driving smarter investment in the infrastructure and services our growing community needs. Productivity matters to Redlands.

Productivity might sound like an abstract concept, but for Redlanders, it directly impacts their everyday lives. When productivity is strong, our local businesses thrive, jobs are plentiful, wages rise and the cost of living falls. Under the previous government productivity stagnated. The Queensland Productivity Commission itself reported that productivity declined under Labor since 2015. What did Labor do in response? They abolished the commission, silencing the independent body that was meant to drive smarter and more efficient policy. They chose to hide critical economic analysis within government agencies behind closed doors and out of public view. That was a betrayal of transparency and a failure for communities like mine in Redlands.

The re-established Queensland Productivity Commission will be an independent statutory body with a clear mission: to tackle the toughest economic, social and regulatory challenges we face and provide transparent, evidence-based solutions. This is not just about boardrooms in Brisbane; it is about Redlands businesses, Redlands workers and Redlands families. As someone who has spent over a decade as a small business owner in Redlands, I know firsthand how excessive regulation and bureaucracy can strangle a business's ability to grow. This bill empowers the commission to link the charge in removing unnecessary red tape, allowing our local businesses to focus on what they do best: creating jobs and driving our local economy.

I also know the potential that is unlocked when government steps out of the way and allows businesses to do what they do best: create jobs and drive prosperity. When red tape is reduced, businesses can reinvest in their staff, expand their services and innovate to stay competitive. That means Redlands businesses—our tourism operators, our retail stores, our family owned trades—will have the freedom to grow and employ more locals and deliver better services to our community. This is not just about making life easier for business owners, it is about ensuring economic opportunity for every Redlander. When our local businesses succeed, our entire community benefits—more jobs, higher wages, stronger consumer confidence. It all starts with ensuring that business owners are not buried under government imposed barriers to success.

I am proud that the Crisafulli government is delivering a solution that business leaders across Redlands strongly support. In my discussions with Dan Golin, the President of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Chamber of Commerce and a local business owner in the tourism and building industry, he

emphasised that productivity will be crucial in sustaining the growth of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, which have experienced massive growth since COVID. He made it clear that to support with expansion, we must cut through inefficiencies and deliver the vital infrastructure that the islands have been missing for the past decade.

In fact, the commission's first major inquiry will focus on productivity in the building and construction industry. This is vital for the Redlands. We are a growing community, but too many locals struggle to find affordable housing and too many builders face rising costs and crippling delays due to red tape and inefficiency. With an independent commission driving reforms in the construction sector, we can accelerate housing projects, reduce building costs and create more local jobs. That means more homes for Redlands families and more opportunities for Redlands tradespeople. As the past president of the Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce, I have worked closely with local trades and construction professionals. I have seen how slow approvals and unpredictable regulatory changes impact their ability to quote projects, meet deadlines and stay in business. These are hardworking men and women who simply want the government to get out of their way so they can do their jobs, build more homes and provide for their families. This bill steps towards ensuring that happens. It is about restoring confidence to an industry that is essential for Queensland's future.

This bill is not just about today; it is also about tomorrow. The Queensland Productivity Commission will also produce an intergenerational equity report to help ensure our policies support prosperity, not only for us but also for future generations. For Redlands, this means smarter planning for population growth, better infrastructure investment and a focus on sustainable industries that protect our natural environment while growing our economy. It means ensuring my children and every child growing up in Redlands can build for their future, with opportunities for secure jobs and affordable homes. Too often I hear from young families who worry that their children will have to move away to find work or afford a home. That is not the future I want for Redlands. We need to create a community where opportunity grows alongside our population—a community where local businesses can provide long-term employment, a community where people of all ages, from apprentices to retirees, can thrive. This is why the Queensland Productivity Commission is so important. It will help to ensure the decisions we make today lead to a better tomorrow for Redlands and for all of Queensland.

Today the LNP is restoring the very institution Labor once championed because we believe Queenslanders deserve honest, evidence-based solutions. In conclusion, this bill represents the kind of leadership Queensland needs and Redlands deserves—leadership that listens, that acts and that delivers. It will drive growth, cut red tape and ensure we build the homes, roads and public services our growing Redlands community needs. It will restore transparency and accountability to policymaking, because Queenslanders deserve to know how their money is being spent and how their government plans to make their lives better. It will secure a stronger future for our children by ensuring we build a Queensland that is more productive, more prosperous and more prepared for the challenges ahead. I am proud to support this bill on behalf of the people of Redlands. I commend the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024 to the House.