




Speech By
Hon. Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2025

PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT

Government Owned Corporations

 **Hon. RM BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training) (2.57 pm): After a decade of decline under Labor, the Crisafulli LNP government is enhancing the performance of Queensland's government owned corporations to deliver the best services and value for Queenslanders. Over the past year as the Minister for Finance and GOC minister, I have been working alongside my fellow shareholding ministers to refocus our energy, ports, water and finance GOCs on financial and operational performance. We are implementing enhanced governance through new leadership and revised strategic expectations so our GOCs can deliver for Queenslanders.

Our GOCs play a critical role in Queensland's economy—providing essential services, critical infrastructure and jobs for Queenslanders. Our energy GOCs are responsible for delivering affordable, reliable and sustainable energy. Our port GOCs play a pivotal role in our state's trade opportunities, supporting our producers and exporters. Sunwater delivers critical infrastructure and irrigation services for our regional and rural communities to drive economic opportunity. QIC, as the state's investment manager, helps to grow Queensland's wealth and invest in new projects to create Queensland jobs.

Today, the Crisafulli LNP government is announcing the appointment of two new chairs for Stanwell and Ports North, completing the refresh of leadership for all 11 GOC boards that has taken place since the election. I welcome Mr Ben Kidston's appointment as director of Ports North and the incoming chair from 1 January. Mr Kidston is leaving his role at the Port of Townsville to take up that position. Mr Justin Parer has been appointed as the chair of Stanwell.

In February this year the government appointed Mr Parer as a director of Ports North. Mr Parer disclosed a conflict at the time of his consideration for appointment by government relating to an interest in land adjacent to Ports North's facilities, including within the Cairns Marine Precinct. Following Mr Parer's appointment, the Ports North board advised it implemented an appropriate conflict management plan in accordance with its conflict management policy, which has been active at all times. Since that time, Ports North have been working on further developing the common user facility including private sector engagement. Given the proximity of the land in which Mr Parer has an interest, both the Ports North board and Mr Parer advised the active conflict management plan was becoming more difficult to maintain in practice. As such, Mr Parer is leaving the Ports North board which the government fully supports. The government welcomes Mr Parer's commitment to continue serving as he moves into his new role as Stanwell chair.

Unlike Labor, the Crisafulli LNP government is driving change in our GOCs with highly skilled boards, a majority of whose members are women, and strengthened oversight of service and infrastructure delivery. Through this work Queenslanders can have increased confidence in their GOCs as the Crisafulli LNP government continues to reverse a decade of decline in performance and service delivery under Labor.