




Speech By  
**Sean Dillon**

**MEMBER FOR GREGORY**

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### **QUEENSLAND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION BILL**

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (3.56 pm): Today I rise in strong support of the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024—a vital piece of legislation that will re-establish the Queensland Productivity Commission as the independent body dedicated to driving efficiency, innovation and sustainable economic growth across the great state of Queensland. The under-utilisation and eventual dissolution of the former productivity commission in 2021 left significant gaps in the former government's economic performance by restricting its ability to conduct independent research and analysis on persistent economic and productivity issues. In contrast, this bill confirms the Crisafulli LNP government's commitment to a fresh start for Queensland by reinstating a platform to deliver frank and fearless policy advice and recommendations to enhance the economic performance and productivity of Queensland. More importantly, however, this bill also ensures the interests of regional and remote Queensland will be represented, especially for regions like the Gregory electorate, which is a key contributor to our state's economy through the agricultural and coalmining sectors as well as the multitude of small businesses that support not only these industries but also the greater Gregory community.

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr DILLON:** I take that interjection: there are fantastic tourism initiatives growing under the great work of our new tourism minister here in the state of Queensland under a blueprint for the future of our economy. The Gregory electorate is home to some of Queensland's most hardworking, resourceful and resilient communities. Our agriculture, mining, tourism and small business vendors provide the backbone of our state's economy, ensuring Queensland remains a leader in agricultural production, resource exports and small business output. It is at this point that I seek the House's indulgence for a moment. A former speaker in this debate made some comments around farm animals that I am sure the member for Gympie and Minister for Primary Industries smiled at, because there is no more productive sector in this state that is being held back by the former government's policies than the agriculture sector and the great work—

**Ms Boyd:** What have you changed?

**Mr DILLON:** We are changing; I take that interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. The great work that this government has done in its first four months to introduce a blueprint for the economy of Queensland's agriculture goes to the great work that this Productivity Commission will also be able to unlock.

I take also the comments from the member for Miller in his contribution to this debate around the sterling contribution of the member for Buderim, the Minister for Transport, and also his contribution that led to the greatest capacity constraint this state faces, that is, the substandard transport network that we have inherited. I have referenced the desire of three ministers—I could reference the whole front bench—and the need for a productivity commission to unlock the growth capital and remove the capacity constraints we have inherited from the former government. These industries have long faced

unnecessary regulatory burdens, economic uncertainty and a lack of targeted policy solutions. The re-establishment of the Productivity Commission by the Crisafulli LNP government will provide these critical sectors with independent, unbiased research and policy recommendations critical to their productivity and their profitability.

The Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2024 achieves three key objectives: firstly, the commission will be able to operate independently—irrespective of what those opposite are trying to make us believe—oblivious to political influence, to provide empirical evidence-based recommendations on a spectrum of economic and regulatory matters. With access to subject matter experts, industry leaders and policy specialists, we can trust that the commission's advice will be well informed and in the best interests of all Queenslanders, especially those in the Gregory electorate. Ensuring unbiased and empirically sound guidance will allow the commission to drive meaningful and sustainable reforms tailored to the unique and ever-evolving needs of Queensland's mining, agriculture and tourism sectors.

Secondly, one of the commission's primary roles will be to identify and propose solutions to unnecessary regulatory burdens that have hindered small business growth and innovation. Since the commission's absence we have seen increased concerns from many small businesses about bureaucratic inefficiency and overreach, especially in rural, remote and regional Queensland. By reinstating this critical function we will streamline regulations, attract additional investment to the state and create an environment where businesses, large and small, can thrive. Entrepreneurs and small business owners in Gregory and throughout Queensland will once again have a dedicated body working to reduce these unnecessary obstacles, allowing them to focus on future growth and development rather than the stagnation of navigating endless bureaucratic roadblocks.

Thirdly, the commission will be once again tasked with reviewing government programs and policies to ensure they deliver maximum value for Queenslanders. During its previous tenure, the commission successfully identified key areas for improvements in economic management, governance and strategies for upgrading service delivery. By reinstating this function we are taking a proactive step towards reducing waste, improving outcomes and ensuring that every dollar spent on infrastructure, transport and essential services in regional Queensland is utilised efficiently and effectively.

If one was thinking that some of this sounds somewhat vaguely familiar, they would be right. In 2015 the member for Bancroft said—

The Productivity Commission will provide independent economic and policy advice to the state with the goal of increasing productivity as well as improving the living standards of Queenslanders and driving economic growth.

We have heard it all before, yet when things have proven interesting for the CFMEU or their cousins—deals being done on the side—the commission was abolished; in the words of the former member for Redcliffe, its work to continue inside government agencies. As Queensland begins to recover from a sustained period of economic disruption we must seize every opportunity to strengthen our economy. The re-establishment of the Queensland Productivity Commission by the Crisafulli LNP government is a critical action that will enable Queensland to address the challenges of an evolving global economy, ensuring that we remain competitive in key industries such as mining and agriculture—two industries that are the lifeblood of Gregory. In an increasingly interconnected world, and an ever-evolving global economy, restoring the Queensland Productivity Commission will ensure that we remain at the forefront of economic stewardship and reform. Furthermore, this commission will once again engage in meaningful consultation with industry and community stakeholders, ensuring that its recommendations reflect the needs and aspirations of all Queenslanders.

Unquestionable agency and transparency will be at the heart of its operations, ensuring accountability and rigour in every decision that it makes. By listening to a range of perspectives and considering a broad spectrum of expert advice, the commission will help shape policies that are fair, inclusive and forward thinking, especially for people in rural and regional Queensland. By the passing of this bill we are making a commitment to the long-term economic prosperity of Queensland and, in particular, our vital regional communities. We are sending a message to Australia and the world that Queensland is open for business, that we value evidence-based policy making and that we are dedicated to fostering a high-growth, high-productivity economy that benefits all.

The re-establishment of the Queensland Productivity Commission will become an undeniable influence within our broader economic strategy to consolidate the fresh start that the Crisafulli LNP government is already delivering for Queensland, providing valuable insights that will guide policy direction for years to come. We must recognise that economic success does not happen by accident; it requires sensible planning, strategic investment and the courage to embrace reform. By restoring the Queensland Productivity Commission that those opposite removed, we are ensuring that Queensland businesses, industries and communities, including in my electorate, have the support, tools and knowledge needed to prosper in an ever-changing world.

I urge all members of this place to support this bill. Let us take this decisive step together towards regaining the ability to drive a more efficient, dynamic and prosperous Queensland. The re-establishment of the Queensland Productivity Commission will ensure Queensland can navigate the challenges of an increasingly complex economic and regulatory landscape. On behalf of my electorate and the people of Gregory, I commend this bill to the House.