1. While the current interim Queensland Productivity Commission (the Commission) has been operating since May 2015 as a public service office in the Treasury portfolio, the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2015 establishes the Commission as an independent statutory body to formalise its operational independence from Government.
2. The establishment of the Commission was a key election commitment of the Government. It will provide professional advice on specific areas of interest to the Queensland State Government. Through improved productivity, the Queensland economy can continue to grow and strengthen.
3. The Commission will conduct public inquiries into complex economic, industry and policy issues referred to it by the Treasurer. The resulting recommendations from the Commission will be independent in character, of high quality and contribute to the policy development process. However, any recommendations stemming from a report would ultimately be a matter for Government to decide upon.
4. The Commission will comprise a full-time Principal Commissioner and up to two other part-time Commissioners.
5. This type of independent economic inquiry and review body is a feature of several Australasian jurisdictions including the Australian Productivity Commission and the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission.
6. Similar to these bodies, the Commission will also be tasked with best practice regulation including ensuring agencies are developing quality regulatory proposals to support good policy development. It will also take over the competitive neutrality complaints function. The aim will be for the Commission to provide a simpler, more accessible and independent competitive neutrality complaints handling system for any businesses with complaints against government owned businesses.
7. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2015 into the Legislative Assembly.
8. *Attachments*
* [Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2015](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)