

The Hon. Craig Emerson MP

Minister for Trade and Competitiveness



Member for Rankin

Craig has been the Member for Rankin since 1998. Before being elected he ran an economic and environmental consulting business. He is a former head of the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage and the South East Queensland Transit Authority.

Craig has held several senior advisory roles within government: senior policy adviser to Bob Hawke and Wayne Goss; economic adviser to Finance Minister Peter Walsh.

Craig has a PhD in economics from the Australian National University and from 1978-1980 was an economist analyst for the United Nations in Bangkok.

Craig's book *Vital Signs Vibrant Society*, published in 2006, is a push for economic reform to overcome short-term agenda setting, offering detailed policy suggestions for the long term future. Leading Australian economist Ross Garnaut called *Vital Signs* 'the most detailed plan for Australian economic reform written by an Australian parliamentarian'.

The book offers policy visions for health and education, tax reform, welfare and workplace participation. His focus on market-based service delivery places Craig at the leading edge of public sector reform. Craig supports reforming passive welfare into workforce participation including policies to lift female participation in the workforce.

Craig's other interests include Rugby Union and Rugby League and he still plays a few games for the Parliamentary Rugby Union Team.

Craig was appointed as Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy, and Minister Assisting the Finance Minister on Deregulation in 2007. In 2009 he also became Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs. Following the 2010 election, Craig became Minister for Trade, gaining the expanded role of Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in March 2012.