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## Queensland Court Blocks Protest as Australia Sets Priorities

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Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers has outlined ten priorities from the government's economic roundtable, setting a framework for long-term reforms while addressing current cost-of-living pressures.

The roundtable, held with representatives from business, unions, and academia, examined how Australia can strengthen productivity, prepare for the energy transition, and ensure fiscal stability. Chalmers said the outcomes reflect areas where the government intends to focus policy efforts.

Key priorities include boosting workforce participation, advancing skills and training, investing in renewable energy, and improving housing affordability. Other measures highlighted were enhancing digital capabilities, supporting supply chain resilience, and building stronger budget foundations to manage future shocks.

Chalmers emphasised that while Australians continue to face rising living costs, the government must also act on long-term challenges. “These priorities provide a path forward to ease pressures today while positioning our economy for the future,” he said.

Further policy announcements linked to the priorities are expected in the lead-up to the next federal budget. Industry groups and unions have broadly welcomed the direction, though many have called for more immediate action on productivity reforms and housing.

While national attention turned to economic planning, events in Queensland added to the day’s headlines. The Brisbane Magistrates Court has refused authorisation for a pro-Palestine protest planned to march across the Story Bridge, ruling that the event posed unacceptable safety risks.

Chief Magistrate Janelle Brassington said her decision did not make the planned assembly unlawful but denied it special protections from civil or criminal liability. She stressed that public safety had to remain the court’s priority.

Justice for Palestine Magan-djin spokesperson Remah Naji said the group would still gather at Raymond Park on Sunday and would make a collective decision about whether to march. She added that the group was considering an appeal against the ruling.

“Our plan is to assemble and decide together,” Naji said. “Personally, I’m prepared to do everything in my power to pressure the government to act in accordance with international law.”

Queensland authorities have urged protesters to respect the court’s decision and warned that any march without authorisation could result in legal consequences.

The developments highlight two pressing aspects of public life in Australia: the federal government’s economic agenda and the ongoing debate in Queensland about balancing the right to protest with public safety.