

**NOTE: There could be differences between this document and the official printed *Hansard*, Vol. 314**

### **WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 1990**

Mr SPEAKER (Hon. D. Fouras, Ashgrove) read prayers and took the chair at 2.12 p.m. in the late Legislative Council Chamber.

#### **PRESENTATION OF MR SPEAKER**

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have to report that yesterday I presented myself to His Excellency the Governor as the member chosen to fill the high and honourable office of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and that His Excellency was pleased to congratulate me upon my election.

#### **GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH**

At 2.15 p.m. His Excellency the Governor came in state to Parliament House, was announced by the Sergeant-at-Arms, received by Mr Speaker and accompanied to the dais.

Honourable members being seated, His Excellency read the following Opening Speech—

#### **HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

You have been called together to give your attention to, and to make decisions upon, matters pertaining to the welfare of this State.

Consequent upon a General Election held on 2nd December, 1989, the Ministry led by the Honourable Theo Russell Cooper tendered its resignation from office, whereby I invited the Honourable Wayne Keith Goss to form an Administration. This he did and the new Ministry was sworn in on 7th December, 1989.

I congratulate all Honourable Members on their election to the Legislative Assembly as the representative of the people of Queensland.

I know that you are aware of how precious a heritage is our system of Parliamentary Government and that you are fully conscious of the responsibilities which rest upon you.

I wish you well in your endeavours in upholding the authority and the dignity of the Parliament.

My Government was elected with a clear mandate for change. My Government went to the people last year on a platform of cleaning up corruption in Queensland, encouraging and promoting economic growth, improving our education system and protecting the environment.

My Government firmly believes that the coming decade can be one of great change and opportunity—an era of tremendous development and progress at regional, national and local level.

Everything possible will be done to place Queensland in the best position to maximise our opportunities and to enjoy the greatest benefits from the change and progress the Nineties are expected to bring.

The basis of our society is the family and the values and policies of my Government will reflect that and ensure that Queensland families come first.

The needs and desires of families will be addressed through a range of Government programs and policies. All aspects of Government service delivery and the provision of community facilities will be closely monitored in order to cater properly for families.

My Government will honour its commitments and will honour the trust placed in it by the people of Queensland.

Action to clean up corruption and rid Queensland of the official excesses of the past has already been taken. The implementation of the recommendations of Commissioner Fitzgerald in his Report of a Commission Inquiry Pursuant to Orders in Council is proceeding.

My Government wishes Queensland to attain the high standards in public life required by the electorate. Confidence in public institutions has to be restored.

As part of this process, my Government will implement the Fitzgerald recommendations not just as a new set of standards, but as the highest standards in public life.

Leading my Government's priorities in implementing these reforms will be the restructuring of Queensland's electoral laws so that the next election can be contested on fair and honest boundaries.

Chairmen have been appointed to the Criminal Justice Commission and the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission. Resources and support will be made available to these bodies to ensure that the fight against corruption is continually vigilant.

The campaign against corruption will be undertaken through strict enforcement of the criminal law and through wide ranging administrative reform.

My Government already has abolished unlimited Ministerial expenses and the Ministerial expense cards. A new accounting system for all Ministerial expenditure, and backed up with a Ministerial Expenditure Unit in Treasury, will mean that all spending will be properly scrutinised.

New pecuniary interest rules will mean that any potential for conflict of interest will be minimised.

My Government's extensive public service reforms will form the basis for a change in the conduct and structure of public life in Queensland.

The number of Government Departments has been reduced from 27 to 18, a measure aimed at greater efficiencies in the cost of administration and the delivery of services.

Legislation will be introduced early in the session to establish a Public Sector Management Commission which will implement systematically the public sector reforms of my Government.

My Government is also undertaking a thorough review of all statutory authorities in Queensland to ensure there is both efficient administration and quality of service to the public.

My Government is determined that all appointments to the Queensland Public Service and other publicly-funded bodies will be based strictly on merit and will only continue on the basis of performance.

The economic health and welfare of Queensland and its citizens will be given highest priority. This will be through co-operation with the private sector. Also the Government, as a major provider of goods and services and one of the State's largest employers, will lead by example.

My Government wants Queensland to become an active part of the vibrant and growing East Asian market. Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan and Hong Kong will be targeted specifically as active trading partners with the State.

The export performance of the State will be boosted through promotion, Government-to-Government relations, and the vigorous co-operation of the private sector.

My Government wants to see a genuine export culture develop in Queensland in the Nineties. This will be done through a range of measures including the establishment of a Trade Development Advisory Board, liaison with Federal agencies such as Austrade, and the development of a Queensland Export Service.

A major review of the State revenues has been undertaken to correct past inefficiencies. This review will pave the way for the collection of moneys by the Government to be on a fair and equitable basis.

My Government's commitment to economic growth and development is one in which all Queenslanders and all of Queensland will share. A Bureau of Regional Development has been established to co-ordinate and plan the economic and social development of Queensland's diverse regions.

A Foreign Investment Secretariat is being established within the Treasury Department to co-ordinate my Government's appraisal of and response to foreign investment proposals.

Another important economic initiative will be the reform of Queensland's industrial relations legislation. A Bill revising that legislation, based on the Hanger Report, will be introduced and it will be acceptable to employer and employee groups alike.

The fragile and precious Queensland environment is one of the State's greatest assets—an asset which needs conservation and protection.

My Government has given a commitment to the people of Queensland that the environment will be conserved and protected through a range of administrative, legislative and educational measures.

A Heritage Bill will be introduced as a matter of priority to protect all aspects of our unique and rich history.

The amount of National Park Estate will be increased to four per cent during the first term of my Government, thus ensuring that all of the State's diverse natural resources are represented in a world class network of parks.

As part of my Government's overall commitment to environmental protection, a Coastal Protection Unit will oversee conservation and planning proposals for the State's coastline.

A Bill will be introduced to establish an Environmental Protection Agency as well as to put forward a range of amendments to existing environmental laws.

A Wet Tropics Management Authority will be created with legislative backing to ensure the proper control and preservation of the World Heritage rainforests in the north of the State.

My Government's commitment to education has already been demonstrated by the provision of extra teachers starting this year and by allocating 1 500 additional tertiary places so that our young people can have the best opportunity for a start in life.

School class sizes will be reduced, additional remedial and specialist teachers will be provided, major primary and secondary school computer programs are to be introduced and language courses relevant to the region will be promoted.

The best teachers will be encouraged to remain in the classroom through an improved career structure and continuing education, professional development and in-service training.

The Tertiary Entrance score system will be abolished following an expert review and it will be replaced by a fairer and more easily understood system.

My Government is committed to the provision of easily accessible health facilities of the highest standard for all Queenslanders. Major capital works will continue and we will see the refurbishment of existing facilities and the provision of new hospitals in areas of greatest need.

The provision of affordable and adequate housing is of great importance to a stable and healthy community. A Family Housing Package has been announced to provide much needed relief from high interest rates for thousands of Queensland families.

It is a matter of concern that Queensland has the lowest level of home ownership and public housing of any State. Therefore, two home ownership schemes will address

these twin problems. The Home Ownership Made Easier Program will mean significantly increased home ownership for lower and middle income earners through low deposit, low start loans and a new shared ownership scheme.

My Government will be committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all Queenslanders, and in particular Queensland women. To this end an equal opportunity Bill will be introduced to eliminate discrimination on a range of grounds, including gender.

Personal and community safety are high on the agenda of my Government. During the first term the strength of the Police Force will be increased by 1 200 members. Officers will be released for operational duties by restructuring measures such as the transfer of some responsibilities to the Corrective Services Commission.

The size and strength of the drug squad will be increased as a first step in a determination to eradicate the drug menace which so often gravely affects our young.

My Government intends to revitalise public transport in Queensland. Better co-ordinated bus, train and ferry services will be provided through a thorough review of routes, timetables and ticketing. The expansion of the metropolitan electric rail network will be a priority.

Queensland's port facilities will be upgraded as part of the revitalisation of coastal shipping. Central to this will be the safe and cost effective management of our ports and harbours.

As part of a general and positive program of law reform the Queensland Criminal Code will be redrafted so that out-of-date, unclear or inappropriate provisions are removed, all serious penal offences are consolidated into one statute and emphasis is given to sentencing provisions which seek to reform offenders while discouraging crime.

My Government has already announced its financial assistance package to the tourist industry which was so tragically affected by the disruptive pilots' dispute.

Through an overhauled and restructured Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, the largest marketing and promotional campaign in the State's history will aim to ensure that any damage to one of the State's premier industries is only short term.

The introduction of poker machines in hotels and clubs will be an important funding boost for sporting recreational and charitable organisations. This will also provide benefits for clubs and hotels to upgrade facilities for members and patrons.

Honourable Members, the following Bills will be brought before the House for consideration—

- A Bill to authorize the signing of a Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement
- A Bill to amend the National Crime Authority (State Provisions Act)
- A Bill to amend the Drugs Misuse Act
- A Bill to amend the Fire Services Act
- A Bill to amend the State Transport Act
- A Bill to reform the law relating to firearms
- A Bill to amend the Traffic Act

Honourable Members, in opening this First Session of the Forty-Sixth Parliament of Queensland, I pray that your deliberations will be guided by Divine Providence in advancing the welfare of the people of Queensland.

His Excellency then left the Chamber.

Mr SPEAKER announced that the sitting would be continued in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, where he took the chair at 2.35 p.m.

**SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT**

**Hon. W. K. GOSS** (Logan—Premier, Minister for Economic and Trade Development and Minister for the Arts) (2.35 p.m.): I move—

"That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow."

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 2.36 p.m.