



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 16 September 1998

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
Statutory Authorities and Boards

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.31 a.m.), by leave: I wish to advise members about two important Government initiatives to open up Government to more and more people and to enhance accountability by statutory authorities, committees and other Government bodies. I am talking about real people power—government of the people by the people. Cabinet has approved implementation of a central register of nominees to Government bodies so that people can nominate themselves to serve on Government bodies. Advertisements for expressions of interest for the register appeared in major weekend editions of all metropolitan and regional newspapers in Queensland.

I urge members of all parties to assist with the success of this initiative by encouraging constituents to lodge their details with the register. There are more than 400 Queensland Government boards and statutory authorities involved in a broad range of Government decision making. Individually and collectively these bodies have considerable decision-making power which impacts upon the economic and social wellbeing of all Queenslanders. These bodies play a vital role in the administration of the State and the delivery of services to Queenslanders. They help set direction, maintain excellence and ensure accountability for a range of Government operations and public enterprises.

The Government's use of a central register will enhance accessibility to Government decision making. It will broaden the range of Queenslanders appointed to boards and statutory positions. It is one thing for people to volunteer to serve on such bodies, but it is crucial that we do our best to give them a detailed explanation of what is required of them.

This week my Government has approved publication of a guide for members of Government boards, committees and statutory authorities. The new guide has undergone extensive consultation. It consolidates into one book, for the first time in Queensland, information relevant to the operation of Government boards, committees and statutory authorities. The guide will assist Government board members in the informed and effective performance of their duties. It will assist the Government in pursuing accountability and fiscal responsibility in respect of decisions made by Government bodies.

The guide is available for purchase at Goprint at nominal cost and will be subject to annual review to ensure its continued relevance and utility. What we are doing is giving more power to the people.
