



Speech by


Hon. Campbell Newman

MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE

Hansard Wednesday, 6 June 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Week

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (2.02 pm): Each year the Queensland government hosts Queensland Week. This celebratory week marks Queensland's official separation from the state of New South Wales on 6 June 1859, when we became a separate crown colony with our own direct line to London—and how we must all feel at the moment that that perhaps could be the case on certain days. This year Queensland Week, which celebrates that anniversary, started on 2 June and will run until 11 June. This is my first Queensland Week as Premier, and I acknowledge that this is a special time for us to celebrate what is great about this state. We held a citizenship ceremony last Saturday and welcomed over 500 new Australians to our country and, more closely, our state. The Queensland Week program also includes the Queensland Greats announcement, which annually sees the acknowledgement of worthy Queenslanders and organisations that are doing great things to better our state.

Queensland is such a diverse place, and we recognise that each community likes to celebrate in their own way. Organisations were therefore invited to apply for sponsorships to host events during Queensland Week this year. A total of \$100,000 funded 16 very worthy events across the state. This year's celebration also coincides with a very special milestone for our monarch, the Queen's diamond jubilee. We have made this the focus of Queensland Week this year. To mark this occasion, Queenslanders will be given a one-off public holiday on Monday, 11 June to celebrate, plus we are hosting a very special initiative called the Big Jubilee Party. We are encouraging people to get together with their family and friends and host their own events on this day in honour of the Queen. By taking part, event organisers go into the draw to win a royal trip for four to London all thanks to our sponsor Qantas. I thought the Attorney-General would be excited about that one! A number of events across the state have already been registered.

Our primary school students are getting in on the act, too, by designing a menu fit for a Queen, and there has already been a great uptake by primary schools across the state. There is something on offer for everyone this Queensland Week, so I encourage people to get out there and engage with the celebrations.