



Speech by

# Hon. Campbell Newman

MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE

Hansard Tuesday, 21 August 2012

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Queensland Economy

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (10.14 am): Queensland is open for business. Last week we saw a number of significant announcements showing how we are making it easier for companies to operate in this state by reducing red tape and encouraging investment. In the aviation and tourism sectors, Minister Stuckey and I joined Qantas CEO Mr Alan Joyce on the Gold Coast last Monday to announce that the airline will resume direct flights between the Gold Coast and Sydney. Qantas last flew out of Coolangatta airport in July 2008, but the decision to resume flights will mean nearly 400,000 extra available seats flying to the Gold Coast each year.

Etihad Airways also made an announcement that it would commence daily flights between Brisbane and Abu Dhabi from 2013. These extra flights—up to a daily service from three flights a week currently—mean an extra 47,000 available seats coming to Queensland each year. But there is more. China Southern Airlines has announced it will be increasing its services to Brisbane and Cairns, and these decisions come only a month after China Eastern Airlines announced it would fly direct from Shanghai to Cairns three times a week from October 2012. The government has been working hard to reinvigorate Queensland's tourism industry by attracting more visitors to the state and will continue to work with airlines to secure even more aviation business.

I am also very pleased to welcome Tatts Group Ltd to Brisbane after the giant lotteries and betting agency decided to relocate its head office from Victoria. It is great to see an operation of this size recognising the benefits of doing business in Queensland. It demonstrates the secure business environment the government is creating. With the relocation of its head office to Brisbane, Tatts Group's Queensland workforce will grow to more than 1,250. The company will be the third largest listed company in Queensland, worth around \$3.9 billion.

In addition, the US based warehouse shopping company Costco has also decided to open a 14,000-square metre store at North Lakes by mid-2013, and the company has plans for at least three more stores in South-East Queensland. This decision is another major boost for business in Queensland and for competition in the state's retail sector.

I also note with some interest that the reported activity at the Exhibition in the last week or so is that people have been taking out their wallets and spending money. There has been an increase in spending and sales of show bags, food and beverage and even in the Fine Arts Pavilion. I think this bodes well in terms of retail confidence in the state of Queensland. Queensland is open for business. These decisions that I have outlined for major companies will boost the Queensland economy, and they show that the government is getting the conditions right for business by reducing red tape and encouraging investment.