



Speech by


Hon. Campbell Newman

MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE

Hansard Wednesday, 22 August 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Red-Tape Reduction

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (2.13 pm): This government is committed to reducing red tape to assist business over the next six years. We promised to establish the Office of Best Practice Regulation within the Queensland Competition Authority as part of our plan to cut red tape and regulation by 20 per cent. I am pleased to advise the House that the Office of Best Practice Regulation was established on 2 July 2012. The Office of Best Practice Regulation is responsible for measuring and reporting on our progress in reducing red tape and regulation. It will also ensure that government is adequately informed of the impact on business of new regulatory proposals. To help kick-start action, in early May I requested that all ministers identify ways to redress red tape, time-consuming and non-essential rules, forms, regulations and procedures that could be implemented, or at least started, within 90 days. Ministers have identified 130 initiatives and are reporting back to me on the progress of this on a regular basis.

We are commencing major reviews to reform and streamline regulation in business sectors such as tourism, planning, construction and real estate, the small mining sector, liquor licensing and gaming. We are implementing better approvals processes so our big resources projects can get going faster while still of course meeting stringent environmental requirements. We have a new, energetic Coordinator-General in place who is ploughing through the work to get these approvals moving. We are streamlining grants and applications and approvals to make applying for the available funds easier, putting many applications online. To give Queenslanders better access to recreational and outdoor activities, we are streamlining the permit system for access to national parks and we are working to make sure licensing requirements for legitimate gun owners are rigorous but not too onerous.

As promised, the government has repealed the previous Labor government's industry waste levy, saving business and local councils an estimated \$297 million over the forwards. We have amended the sustainable planning regulation which will mean substantial time and cost savings when applying for development approvals. These amendments remove numerous triggers for development applications to be referred to state agencies and will mean 1,500 fewer referrals a year. I thank the Assistant Minister for Planning Reform and the Deputy Premier for their work in this area.

I have also requested that ministers who bring forward regulatory proposals that impose a new burden on small business provide at least one and up to three options to reduce the regulatory burden on small business as a compensator. I know that my government's red-tape reduction initiatives continue to be well received in communities across Queensland. At a recent forum with real estate agents in my Ashgrove electorate we spoke about the benefits of axing Labor's ill-conceived sustainability declarations and further incentives that would benefit the real estate industry, including streamlining home sale contracts. The government is closely monitoring all of these processes and I am confident that Queensland businesses and the community are already seeing benefits from these reforms. There will be many more to come as we continue to get out there and listen to Queenslanders and get this state back on track.