



Speech by


Hon. Campbell Newman

MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE

Hansard Tuesday, 30 October 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Accountability and Transparency in Government

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (9.47 am): I rise to update the House on measures the government has taken to deliver on our election commitment of restoring accountable and transparent government in Queensland. We have already put ministers clearly in charge of their departments and set high standards for performance. We made lying to parliament illegal again. We published our election commitments and we are reporting to the community every six months. We are also releasing unprecedented information on hospital waiting lists. We are releasing crime statistics and flood maps. And there is more to come.

On 1 August 2012 I informed the House about the release of a draft Ministerial Code of Conduct which was provided to me by the Integrity Commissioner for a two-week period of consultation. I am pleased to advise the House that the submissions received by the government supported the draft code. All feedback on the draft code was provided to the Integrity Commissioner for review. The Integrity Commissioner then recommended a number of changes be incorporated into the final code, including that ministers and assistant ministers are not only required to advise the Premier if they have a conflict of interest but also required to advise how the conflict of interest will be managed. The Integrity Commissioner supports the finalised Ministerial Code of Conduct, which I now table.

Tabled paper: Ministerial Code of Conduct [[1395](#)].

The code provides an effective framework to hold ministers and assistant ministers to account and ensure their conduct continues to meet public expectations, and I commend it to the House. I also record my thanks to the Integrity Commissioner, Dr David Solomon AM, for his assistance in drafting and finalising the new code and also of course the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie.

Pursuant to section 1.3.1 of the *Members' Entitlements Handbook*, I lay upon the table of the House the annual report of the travel benefits afforded to former members of the Legislative Assembly for 2011-12 and the annual report of the daily travelling allowance claims by members of the Legislative Assembly for 2011-12.

Tabled paper: Daily Travelling Allowance Claims by Members of the Legislative Assembly—Annual Report 2011-12 [[1425](#)].

Tabled paper: Travel Benefits Afforded Former Members of the Legislative Assembly—Annual Report 2011-12 [[1396](#)].

I also table the Ministerial Gifts Register for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.

Tabled paper: Ministerial Gifts Register Reportable Gifts 1/7/2011—30/6/2012 [[1397](#)].

The register includes gifts received by the former government and those received by the current government. Some 55 reportable gifts were received during 2011-12, 23 gifts to the current government and 32 gifts to the former government. As has occurred in past years, the majority of the gifts received were either held by Ministerial Services or placed on display.

I wish to advise the House that on 11 October 2012 in accordance with the Constitution of Queensland 2001 Her Excellency the Governor, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council,

appointed Raymond Alexander Stevens MP as Assistant Minister to the Premier on e-government, and I table an extract from the *Government Gazette* of 12 October 2012 for the information of the House.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government Gazette No. 37 regarding appointment of the Assistant Minister to the Premier on e-government [1398].

I also wish to advise the House that the member for Mermaid Beach, in addition to his appointment as an assistant minister, also continues in his role as Manager of Government Business or, as he will always be to me, the Leader of the House.

I now want to update the House on Queensland's open data revolution. The people of Queensland are the owners of government information and through our commitment to open data we will make as much data as possible available to them. We are opening our books to all Queenslanders by releasing data in the best formats to allow the private sector to develop new solutions to Queenslanders' problems. As mentioned earlier, I have appointed the member for Mermaid Beach as the state's first assistant minister for e-government. The assistant minister will drive the open data agenda towards our vision of releasing all government data except for where it is confidential or commercial-in-confidence or subject to legal professional privilege. The bottom line is that everything that we possibly can release we will.

The government has set up a website—data.qld.gov.au—where already we have made the last 15 years of crime data available, as well as detailed information on Queensland's demographic, economic and social makeup. Today I announce that data on all current vehicle, trailer and motorcycle registrations across Queensland is now available. This information includes the age of vehicles, make and model, fuel type and suburb of registration. This data can be used in practical ways to benefit Queenslanders. For example, if there is a number of a certain type of car in and around a suburb, then the manufacturer or the dealers may choose to open a new service centre in that particular area. Our new data site also provides access to state road traffic counts, travel times, vehicle occupancy, origin destination and bikeway survey data from across the metropolitan, north coast and south coast regions. More and more data will be added over the coming weeks and months as we enter this exciting open data revolution—all part of our commitment to being an open and accountable government.