



Speech by

# Hon. Campbell Newman


MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE

Hansard Tuesday, 30 October 2012

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Uranium Mining

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (9.53 am): Australia has the world's largest reserves of uranium. Uranium exports could earn tens of billions of dollars in exports for our country over the next two decades, providing thousands of jobs across rural and regional areas. Global demand for this energy will create enormous opportunities for Queensland and rural communities in Queensland over the coming years. Queensland must not miss out on the opportunities for jobs and investment. That is why today I am announcing my government has established an implementation committee to look at what needs to be done to recommence uranium mining in Queensland. This implementation committee will be chaired by Central Highlands Councillor Paul Bell AM, who has just retired after eight years as President of the Local Government Association of Queensland. Councillor Bell has spent decades representing the mining communities of Central Queensland and he understands the importance of creating jobs and opportunities in the regions. Also serving on the Uranium Implementation Committee will be Noeline Ikin, CEO of the Northern Gulf Resource Management Group; Frances Hayter, environmental director from the Queensland Resources Council; Dr Geoff Garrett, the Queensland government Chief Scientist; Dan Hunt, Acting Director-General of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines; and I stress subject to final confirmation—this is not confirmed but we hope that he can be involved—Mr Warren Mundine, well-known Indigenous leader and Director of the Australian Uranium Association.

This morning I am also releasing the terms of reference of the Uranium Implementation Committee, and I table these now.

*Tabled paper:* Terms of reference, Uranium Implementation Committee, to advise on the recommencement of uranium mining in Queensland [[1399](#)].

These will also be available on the Department of Natural Resources and Mines website today. The committee has been asked to establish a framework for how a uranium mining and export industry can develop and operate in Queensland. This framework will ensure that uranium mining recommences in Queensland with world's best practice environmental and safety standards while also creating an attractive environment for investment. During its investigations between now and mid-March next year, I have asked the committee to examine and make recommendations on a range of issues, including how the uranium industry works in other states, regional and community development opportunities, safety and logistics issues, approval processes, rehabilitation and royalties. Uranium mining and its export is providing jobs, royalties and crucial regional development in other areas of Australia. The LNP government believes it is time that Queenslanders shared in these benefits as well. Under my LNP government, Queensland is once again open for business.