



Speech by


Hon. Campbell Newman

MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE

Hansard Thursday, 29 November 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Newman Government, Accountability

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (9.42 am): My government is determined to be open and accountable. We have shown that we are prepared to release an unprecedented amount of information that has been gathered and held by government for years. We will be continuing to release new information onto our data.qld.gov.au website and build its capacity so more people can access data in useful formats. We are talking openly about the results we achieve, the services we provide and the decisions we make for Queenslanders because we want people to have sensible, well-informed debates about our policies and our actions. The government has committed to retrospectively releasing ministers' diaries monthly commencing early next year. Therefore, today I am pleased to table my diary for the first time. I table the document now.

Tabled paper: Calendar of the Premier of Queensland, Hon. Campbell Newman MP—26 March 2012 to 31 October 2012 [[1779](#)].

This section covers the first six months of government, since the election in March. The information is being released in accordance with the right to information principles, the content of which has been determined—and I stress—by an independent RTI officer in the Public Service. We have asked that, in making this determination, as much information as possible be released.

Perversely, the reason I have not released it earlier is that I was advised that I am unable to do it in a more normal way because, ironically, that could have breached privacy laws. This shows what a load of codswallop we have when it comes to the framework set up by those opposite as a dress-up for open and accountable government. It illustrates clearly why we are revisiting our privacy, integrity and information framework to make sure it is doing what it is meant to do: to make information about government more accessible for Queenslanders. Unfortunately, Labor amended integrity laws time and time again in knee-jerk reactions to political problems or stories in the paper. That is not what this government is about. A bandaid will not be good enough this time around.

In reforming the system, we will focus on creating an accountability system that is workable and sensible. The many perverse problems that we face in promoting real, open and accountable government were all left to us by a failed Labor administration. In contrast, this government is committed to fixing the system properly so that Queenslanders can have confidence in a government with integrity that is open and accountable in all of its activities.

Today I again issue a challenge to the Leader of the Opposition to release some of those lobbyist contact registers that seem to have gone missing or perhaps her diary or those of her former ministerial colleagues.