




Speech by

Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Hansard Tuesday, 30 October 2012

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.26 am): We are in a new era in Queensland—the open data revolution, a revolution that the people of Queensland deserve from their government. As the recently appointed Assistant Minister to the Premier on e-government, I have been given the greatest honour of being charged with the Premier's exciting agenda of open and accountable government for all Queenslanders. The former Labor government hid as much as it could from the public of Queensland, including the mismanagement of budget after budget, the payroll debacle, hospital waiting lists and the waiting lists to get on to the waiting lists and overspending and blow-outs on projects such as the Traveston Dam, the white elephant of the desalination plant at Tugun, the South-East Queensland water infrastructure plan failure, and the list goes on and on.

Data.qld.gov.au will be a concise, open and accessible information hub and website of government data that will be available to all Queenslanders and everyone at no cost. It will be an avenue for Queenslanders to obtain and access information that is relevant to them in any aspect of their lives. Totally open government, or e-government, is the model and it will make the need for freedom of information requests, as they were previously called, or even right to information requests virtually unnecessary. All of the information of government will go online except for commercial-in-confidence data and data covered by privacy regulations. All data will be accessible for the public to develop business opportunities, with an availability of data that has not been previously available with an easily accessible website that has information set out in a way to encourage usage and interactive development of apps for the effective dissemination of information for use. This model will create a cultural change across all Queensland government departments and will deliver open and transparent government that has eluded Queenslanders over the last 20 years. We want the people to know what the Queensland government has done, what the government has to offer and we are committed to developing business opportunities with the utilisation of this specific, focused data. The US, and in particular New York City, one of the largest cities in the world, has embraced the data revolution and we are basing our model on this one, with a priority intention of surpassing its benchmark for openness and accountability.

Currently in Queensland we have a population of over 4.5 million people. The open data revolution will place Queensland on the international stage by being able to engage the Queensland public and the business community through information readily available for their communities and for businesses to take a foothold to create opportunities that they would never have been able to dream of before. The Premier's fantastic initiative of this open data revolution and total commitment to its efficacy will benefit Queenslanders in a plethora of ways. I am particularly honoured to be chosen to make this data revolution a reality for all. We will be leading Australia in this new open data revolution. We will leave no stone unturned in exploring every opportunity to make the full set of Queensland data and statistics available to its owners, the Queensland public.

Licensing issues will have to be addressed as well as the issue of commercial-in-confidence and confidentiality matters. But these issues may be overcome with only information that is not subject to these terms being placed on the website. The opportunities are endless for business development and the development of apps for particular information areas, community engagement and the development of

initiatives for community groups and associations. I call on the business community and the community at large to come forward and become involved in this revolution, which will embrace ideas from the wider community and provide a two-way information flow. We expect the community and business to come to us with better ways that we can provide information to them. We will be moving quickly in that direction to give a full and frank, open dissemination of data.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Premier for this exciting opportunity and assure him that the open data revolution will place Queensland on the world stage in open and accountable government and give enormous opportunities to the business community to use this new set of data and statistics. This is the new currency of this government for the business community to make money and go forward with new innovation for the Queensland community.