




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

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MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Open Data Initiative

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.40 pm): I would like to update the House, during these new members' statements, on the progress of the open data initiative with which the Premier has entrusted me. It is one of the highest priorities of the Newman LNP government and independent observers have noted that Queensland is leading the way in Australia on this important global initiative. We are in the process of engaging the three levels of government—local, state and federal—to work together and collaborate to achieve a strategic direction that has never been done before in the area of open and accountable governing through easy access of departmental government data.

Recently, the Brisbane City Council has come on board to participate in the open data industry advisory group. The Premier has been instrumental in this inclusive strategy along with approaching the federal government to get involved. We are excited about the rapid progress in a relatively short period. This year, like last year, the open data apps competition for the Premier's Awards continues. This year we hope to initiate a special format for our apps competition along with the usual areas of non-government and business, which would see the Public Service get involved. This would continue to expand the area of creative thinking in the Public Service to provide practical and useable apps that are beneficial for the particular areas that each group focus on.

I continue to meet with academia, IT and open data industry leaders, community organisations and not-for-profit groups to encourage participation in our open data journey, and they have all been very enthusiastic. I am astounded at their commitment and dedication to the government priority to make the Queensland government the most open and accountable government in Australia, if not globally. This reinforces the government's commitment to the people of Queensland and their need for government data and also reduces the need for right to information requests. Ultimately this will save Queenslanders money as, in most instances, we hope that we will have reached a stage where people will not need to submit an RTI application because the information they seek will be all there on the open data website.

While our open data process is an ongoing journey, to date we have 718 data sets, or about 3,306 resources, available on the open data website. We are strongly lobbying, both internationally and nationally, to get open data on the G20 agenda for the meeting of world leaders in Brisbane later this year. This global platform will be a fantastic opportunity to elevate our priority of open data to a world stage. I encourage all Queenslanders to visit our open data website that offers open and useable data, which is a great avenue to see and use the state government data firsthand.