




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Food Labelling

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.57 am): The Palaszczuk government is a government which delivers on its election commitments. We went to the people with a specific platform and we are now implementing that platform. In this light I am pleased to announce that later today I will introduce into the parliament the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, which will require large food outlets to list the kilojoules contained in food that they sell. This legislation will deliver on one of our election commitments in the Health portfolio.

While many national fast-food outlets and supermarkets in Queensland are already displaying some kilojoule information instore and online, we want to ensure consistency across our state. These new arrangements will apply to businesses that either have 20 outlets in Queensland or 50 nationally. These include fast-food chains, snack food and drink chains, bakery chains, cafe chains and supermarkets. But that said, we also want to see other food retailers adopt the measure in the interests of allowing consumers to make a more informed choice.

These new requirements will be rolled out over a 12-month period following the passage of the legislation. During this transition period, Queensland Health will be working with business to achieve compliance. While the factors behind obesity are complex, the widespread availability and consumption of unhealthy food is driving the increasing rates of obesity in Queensland. In 2014, 30 per cent of Queensland adults consumed takeaway food at least once a week. This is more prevalent among young people, with 48 per cent of adults aged 18 to 24 eating fast food at least once a week.

We know from research that many members of the community greatly underestimate the amount of energy, saturated fat, sugar and salt in processed food. Kilojoule menu labelling will ensure Queenslanders can make informed choices at the point of sale. These amendments are based on laws which are already in place in New South Wales. Since the introduction of these laws in New South Wales, consumers are purchasing, on average, food which has 15 per cent fewer kilojoules. We aim to achieve similar results here in Queensland through the delivery of this important election commitment.