Question on Notice
No. 567
Asked on 17 April 2008

MS SCOTT asked the Member for Callide (MR. SEENEY) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the Freedom of Information (Open Government—Disclosure of Contracts) Amendment Bill - Will he inform the House who was consulted prior to the preparation of this Bill?

ANSWER:

I congratulate the Member on her first ever question asked on Freedom of Information and trust she will one day ask her own government a question about Freedom of Information and Government transparency.

Business, industry and the community have been consulted in the course of the State Opposition's policies in relation to open and transparent government and Freedom of Information reform.

I have also consulted with the Queensland Labor Party state platform endorsed at its 2007 State Conference and draw your specific attention to clauses:

> 7.6(f) ensure that there is an overriding requirement to disclose where such disclosures is in the public interest; and
>
> 7.6(e) require that Government Departments and institutions regularly provide a statement of the categories of documents maintained by them.

In relation to 7.6(e) this would clearly include contracts entered into between government and non-government sectors.

The Bill is the product of a need for more open and accountable government, which was recently endorsed by the Auditor General's call for greater government transparency.