

Question on Notice
No. 568
Asked on 17 April 2008

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Freedom of Information (Open Government—Disclosure of Contracts) Amendment Bill - Did he investigate the costs associated with the implementation of this Bill and will he detail these costings to the House?

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.

With the State Labor Government having racked up a projected \$55 billion debt, I understand the Member's concern about the cost implications of legislation and regret such a concern has not been aired or shared by Government MPs for the last decade in the lead up to the current debt levels.

As the proposed amendments in the Freedom of Information (Open Government Disclosure of Contracts) Amendment Bill relates to government contracts with the non-government sector, it is impossible to provide a precise forward costing for the policy unless the number of contracts to be entered into by the government is known in advance. This is of course a virtual impossibility.

As a general rule however, the financial consequences of the bill will be cost neutral in each case. The Bill allows for contracts between the government and non-government sectors to simply be reformatted to ensure there is a mechanism to allow all pertinent provisions of the contract to be publicly accessible.