

Question on Notice
No. 571
Asked on 17 April 2008

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the Freedom of Information (Open Government—Disclosure of Contracts) Amendment Bill - Did he consult with other State jurisdictions during the preparation of the Bill and did he find similar legislation operating in other States?

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.

As I have already advised Parliament, the disclosure of major government contracts already occurs in some Australian states and territories including New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory.

Abroad, it occurs in jurisdictions such as Canada and New Zealand. This Bill seeks to bring the Queensland Government contracting process into line with the disclosure requirements of these other jurisdictions.

Most recently, I refer the Member to New South Wales where that State's Freedom of Information Amendment (Open Government – Disclosure of Contracts) Act 2006 resulted from the controversy surrounding the Cross City Tunnel and highlighted the importance of public transparency of commercial relationships between government and non-government sectors.

The Premier's current Chief of Staff I understand has detailed knowledge of Bills debated in the New South Wales' Legislative Assembly and I am surprised, given this question has been lodged, that despite the Chief of Staff's \$270,000 salary package, he appears not to have alerted the Premier or government MPs to the abovementioned Bill.