

## AN OPEN LETTER

# ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN QUEENSLAND

On 8 January, The Australia Institute wrote an open letter to the leaders of Queensland's political parties asking each "to commit to the following principles of accountability and good governance put forward by **The Honourable Tony Fitzgerald AC QC**":

- 1. Govern for the peace, welfare and good government of the State;*
- 2. Make all decisions and take all actions, including public appointments, in the public interest without regard to personal, party political or other immaterial considerations;*
- 3. Treat all people equally without permitting any person or corporation special access or influence; and*
- 4. Promptly and accurately inform the public of its reasons for all significant or potentially controversial decisions and actions.*

The Australian Labor Party, Katter's Australian Party, the Palmer United Party and the Australian Greens all agreed to adopt the principles if elected. The Liberal National Party did not respond by the deadline but, after being asked by an audience member during the televised debate, Premier Newman agreed to the principles.

The Fitzgerald Principles, to which all parties now say they are committed, necessarily look to the future, beginning with Saturday's election. The full responses of the parties are available at [www.tai.org.au](http://www.tai.org.au). This information is publicly available so that Queenslanders heading to the ballot box can consider each party's political track record and the terms of its commitment to the Fitzgerald Principles.

Research shows that corruption hinders growth, increases the cost of doing business, and lowers the quality of public infrastructure, which makes each party's commitment to transparency and accountability essential to a healthy democracy and economy in Queensland.

**We the undersigned** call on the parties elected to the Queensland Parliament to honour their commitment to govern for the benefit of all Queenslanders and our unique environment; to ensure that industry lobbyists and representatives, including those from the resources and property development industries, will no longer enjoy privileged access to the government; that individual liberties, proportionality and the separation of powers will be respected and future judicial appointments will be based on objective merit after wide consultation, always respecting confidentiality; and, that Queensland's weakened anti-corruption watchdog, the Crime and Corruption Commission will be fully restored.

Australian Lawyers Alliance  
Australian Lawyers for Human Rights  
Australian Marine Conservation Society  
Basin Sustainability Alliance  
Environmental Defenders Office (Qld)  
Environmental Justice Australia  
Friends of Stradbroke Island  
Independent Community Accountability Network  
Law and Justice Institute of Queensland  
Lock the Gate  
Oakey Coal Action Group

Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation  
Queensland Conservation Council  
Queensland Council of Unions  
Queensland Council Civil Liberties  
Save the Reef  
Solar Council  
Sunshine Coast Environment Council  
The Australia Institute  
The Wilderness Society  
TJ Ryan Foundation  
Working for Queenslanders

Members of the public are warmly invited to attend the  
**'Accountability and the Law: safeguarding against corruption in Queensland'**

Monday, 9 February 2015 at Customs House, Brisbane.

The one-day conference features a keynote address by the Hon. David Ipp AO QC on 'Coal and Corruption – the ICAC experience'

[www.accountabilityconferenceqld.com/](http://www.accountabilityconferenceqld.com/)