

One MP faces axe as two more call each other liars

LNP WAR GETS NASTY

Steven Wardill
STATE POLITICAL EDITOR

THE LNP Government last night asked its party bosses to expel one of its own MPs while another threatened to sue a colleague.

The rift in the Government widened as the hierarchy struggled to contain events labelled "cheap show business" by Leader of Government Business Ray Stevens.

It has left Premier Campbell Newman to juggle a series of growing problems for the Government, which is adamant it wants rookie MP Carl Judge kicked out of the party.

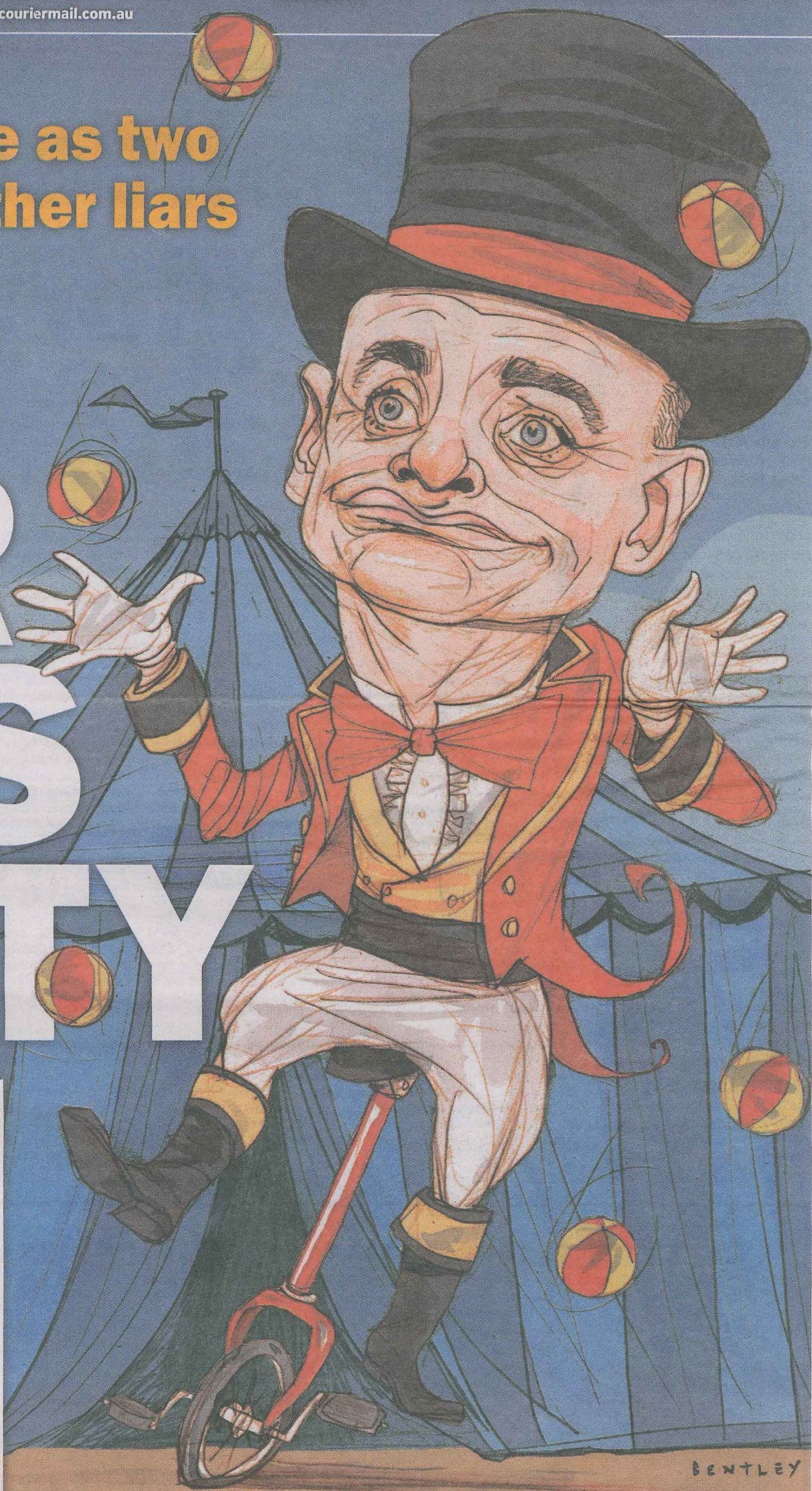
The Government is also running out of patience with Gaven MP Alex Douglas, who is gunning for Mr Stevens following Mr Douglas's axing from lucrative roles in parliamentary committees.

Mr Douglas is threatening to sue Mr Stevens unless the fellow Gold Coast MP retracts statements he made yesterday morning on one of the Government's messiest days since its stunning election win in March.

There is more trouble ahead for Mr Newman - his adversary Clive Palmer says he wants to set up a new political party.

★ THE STATE ★
CIRCUS

REPORTS,
ANALYSIS
»P2-4



HEATWAVE ALERT

MEDICAL WARNING ISSUED FOR COMING WEEK »P5

WEATHER REPORT

Cairns	Mostly fine	32°
Townsville	Partly cloudy	32°
Rockhampton	Mostly sunny	33°
Toowoomba	Chance storm	33°
Gold Coast	Partly cloudy	29°
Sunshine Coast	Mostly sunny	30°

Brisbane
Mostly sunny

31°
WEATHER »P74

Inside

Business	62
Cinema	55
Classifieds	75
Comics	72
Confidential	36
Editorial	38
Funerals	78
Obituaries	79
Hit	Liftout
Horoscopes	70
Law list	77
Leahy's View	61
Letters	60
Opinion	38
Puzzles	73
Race guide	80
Recipe	69
TV programs	71
World	32

CONTACTS

General 1300 30 40 20
Classifieds 13 22 02
Post GPO Box 130 Brisbane 4001
HOME DELIVERY
Phone 1800 630 130
 (free call 8am-5pm Mon-Fri)
 or go to the website.

BUY PHOTOS

To purchase selected pictures
 from this paper phone
 1300 301 705 or go to
www.newsphotos.com.au

GOLD LOTTO

Draw 3272 28-11-12
7 22 30 37 43 45
Supps 35 1

**Dividends not available at
 time of publication.**

OZ 7 LOTTO

Draw 980 27-11-12
1 9 13 16 22 33 34
Supps 4 5

DIVIDENDS	WINNERS
1st -	-
2nd \$21,567.60	8
3rd \$3861.20	92
4th \$367.60	497
5th \$48.65	4379
6th \$24.00	101,405
7th \$14.05	194,507

FEEDBACK

We welcome the views of our
 readers, so if you have a query
 or comment, please email:
readerhelp@qnp.newsitd.com.au

CARAVAN OF CHAOS: How the week has unfolded



Sunday

LNP MP Ray Hopper, announces his defection to Katter's Australian Party: "When Campbell Newman won power he sacked the National Party - he sacked Hopper, Howard Hobbs, Mike Horan, Ted Malone and Vaughan Johnson."

"No comment." - MP Carl Judge told *The Courier-Mail* when asked if he would also join KAP.

Monday

"We will not tolerate disloyalty." - Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney on barring Judge from the party room meeting.

2.30pm Judge told by LNP members he cannot attend its party room meeting until he shows 100 per cent commitment to the LNP. Mr Judge says he is "considering his options".

Tuesday

8.35am Treasurer Tim

Nicholls denies that MPs must pledge loyalty.

9.58am Manager of Government Business Ray Stevens announces in Parliament that Alex Douglas will be replaced as chairman of the Ethics Committee and discharged from the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct

Committee. He is instead appointed to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

10.27am Judge crosses the floor to vote with non-Government MPs on Seeney's attempt to silence Independent Peter Wellington.

LNP slides from glory to chaos

Steven Wardill
 Robyn Ironside
 Sarah Vogler

THE Newman Government was last night in chaos, with one MP to be kicked out for dissent and another threatening to sue a colleague.

After a second day of public attacks aimed at each other, LNP MPs last night agreed at a special party room meeting that disgruntled Yeerongpilly member Carl Judge was "no longer welcome".

"There was a whole range of behaviour we found unacceptable," Deputy Premier Jeff Seeney said. "The message for him is that he is no longer welcome in our team."

He said the party would ask state president Bruce McIver to consider disendorsement.

But days after revealing he was considering becoming an Independent, Mr Judge last night said he was committed to the LNP and would await the party's final call on his future.

"Campbell Newman and Jeff Seeney run the parliamentary wing... They certainly don't run the party," he said, adding he sought a meeting with the Premier before the party room meeting but was denied one.

Last night's meeting came after Gaven MP Alex Douglas

was dumped as chairman of the Legal Affairs Committee after he had earlier indicated he would sue Leader of Government Business Ray Stevens.

Dr Douglas promised a "surgical" pursuit of the reason behind his sacking as ethics committee chairman on Tuesday but was accused of acting dishonestly by Mr Newman.

Following the meeting, Dr Douglas said he was still a member of the LNP and would "probably die one".

Mr Seeney said he believed Dr Douglas and Mr Newman would sort out their problems.

"They are both experienced politicians and I think they will settle their differences tonight," Mr Seeney said.

The Government is convinced billionaire former LNP member Clive Palmer is behind the decisions of both MPs to turn on their own and believes publicly crushing dissenters will make other MPs think twice about striking out.

The public spats, which follow veteran MP Ray Hopper's defection to Katter's Australian Party on Sunday, have compounded the perception that the Government is consumed with internal frictions.

Mr Judge said earlier yesterday he was still contemplating his position as an LNP member

and was in no rush to make a decision on his future. "If I need a bit longer, I'll take a bit more time," he said. "There's no reverse gear on this."

However party bosses are now expected to eject him.

The decision will mean the LNP will have 76 members, still 10 more than Labor achieved at its zenith.

But Dr Douglas insists he will not quit the party despite being sacked twice as a committee chairman in successive days. After initially being pragmatic about the decision to dump him as chairman of the Ethics Committee on Tuesday, Dr Douglas yesterday demanded to be reinstated and denied the Premier's claims he had asked to be shifted.

He said "other information", which he refused to reveal, had prompted his action but he linked it to current Ethics Committee investigations, which include a probe into Transport and Main Roads director-general Michael Caltabiano.

Leader of Government Business Ray Stevens, who is responsible for committee appointments, accused Dr Douglas of being "loose with the truth" over his shift to Legal Affairs but admitted the Government antics appeared like "cheap show business".



Get serious: go to couriermail.com.au for Ministers' priorities in this term

"Keep cool with the lowest prices"

Moretti
40cm Pedestal Fan
3 speed, oscillating, 50W motor. White. 4440554
\$12

Tempo
30cm Box Fan
3 speed, 2hr timer. White. 4440770
\$18⁹⁰

Moretti
82cm Tower Fan
3 speeds, oscillating, 2hr timer. White. 4440549
\$39⁹⁰

ARLEC
Portable Air Conditioner
10000 BTU remote control, 24hr timer. White. 4440784
\$349

BUNNINGS warehouse

LOWEST PRICES ARE JUST THE BEGINNING...

11am "There would have been no change in relation to the Ethics Committee if he had not been agreeable to the matter." – Premier Campbell Newman tells Parliament he understood Douglas would "like to change".
12.20pm Douglas says it wasn't his idea to quit: "Did I seek the change? No. It was suggested that I move across."

4.10pm "I personally feel as though the leadership team hasn't been listening to the backbenchers." – Judge.

Yesterday

8.30am Douglas denies that he wants to leave the Ethics Committee and calls on Newman to correct the record. He demands to be reinstated.

8.50am Stevens hits back at Douglas, denying Newman misled Parliament. Stevens accuses Douglas of being "loose with the truth" in the lead-up to his removal from the Ethics Committee.

2pm Stevens announces in Parliament the removal of Douglas from chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety

Committee 28 hours after putting him in the position. "It was a complete surprise this morning to hear the Member for Gaven on radio essentially claiming he was no longer happy to take on this new role." – Stevens.

2.27pm Douglas addresses Parliament, demanding he be reinstated to the Ethics

Committee and Parliamentary CMC: "I asked to stay as ethics chair, it was refused. At no stage did I request to be removed from my position ... as stated by the Premier in Parliament yesterday."

2.36pm Newman says Douglas on Tuesday night had expressed that he was "very pleased" at the changes.

3.30pm Douglas says he remains an LNP member but does not rule out legal action over comments he was happy to stand down from the Ethics Committee.

6.30pm LNP party room requests Judge's expulsion from party.

8.15pm Judge says he won't be intimidated.

Dire tribe mentality gives rise to diatribe

Steven Wardill



COMMENT

THE Newman Government's almost primal need to win every small battle means it is losing the war.

The ugly scenes of self-flagellation the LNP has engaged in this week are a continuation of their tribal attitude in Opposition of eye-for-an-eye retribution against their own.

However, while the Government has been busy getting square with itself, if that is at all possible, they seem to be missing the fact they are trashing their own credibility.

Much of what Queenslanders have been treated to since Sunday's defection of Condamine MP Ray Hopper was avoidable, if cooler heads had prevailed. There was no need to immediately oust disgruntled MP Carl Judge to a seat away from his fellow LNP members in Parliament.

There was no need to remove outspoken Gaven MP Alex Douglas as chairman of the ethics committee. There was no need to compare Hopper to a dog in Parliament. And there was no need for MP Ray Stevens to jump on radio yesterday to rebut comments made by Douglas.

It is almost as if some members of the Government have the misguided opinion the party's popularity means they are beyond reproach.

And every slight – even if it emanates from one of their own – has to be responded to in kind so they are seen to emerge the victors from every skirmish.

However, while indulging themselves in acts of revenge against their own, the Newman Government is fast losing the public's faith. Being in Government means being big enough to accept criticism rather than trying to crush it.

While they sure haven't forgotten how to attack each other since winning Government, the LNP must remember that it was exactly this kind of activity that kept them in opposition.

★ **STATE PARLIAMENT** ★

CIRCUS

THE GREATEST SHOW ON GEORGE STREET

'It's cheap show business!'
 Manager of Government Business Ray Stevens

THIS WEEK FEATURING ...

★ **RINGMASTER CAMPBELL NEWMAN'S FAMOUS JUGGLING ACT**

★ **RAY HOPPER CHANGING SHAPE IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES**

WATCH AS

★ **JEFF SEENEY THE FIRE-BREATHER SHOOTS FROM THE MOUTH**

★ **TIM NICHOLLS TRIES - AND FAILS - TO TAME THE LIONS**

SEE

★ **ALEX DOUGLAS HAVE HIS RESPONSIBILITIES CUT IN HALF**

★ **AND IN HIS FIRST APPEARANCE**

★ **CARL JUDGE WALKS THE TIGHT-ROPE**

Roll up, roll up for the greatest 'United' show on Earth

BILLIONAIRE Clive Palmer is planning to set up a new political outfit called the United Party – and he is wooing the rural-based Katter's Australian Party as a potential coalition partner.

It is understood Mr Palmer's party –

which, not surprisingly, would feature a pro-development and pro-mining policy platform – might even make an attempt to lure disgruntled LNP MP Carl Judge to secure a seat in State Parliament.

Katter party boss Bob Katter is open to talks with Mr Palmer, as a key issue

between the two has been resolved.

Mr Palmer raised Mr Katter's ire earlier this year with his support for the flying in of foreign workers to Australian mines.

"We believe that situation has been resolved and they would only support

flying in workers in rare cases where they were really needed," Mr Katter said.

Mr Palmer was last night refusing to make any public comment on his plans.

Michael Madigan

NEW **HIGHLY EFFICIENT TOP QUALITY AUSTRALIAN SOLAR PANELS**

BOOK NOW
BEFORE SOLAR GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES REDUCED 1 JAN 2013

30
YEAR WARRANTY
ON 250 WATT PANELS

10
YEAR WARRANTY
ON GERMAN INVERTERS

10
YEAR WARRANTY
ON WORKMANSHIP

PRICE GUARANTEE
WE WILL BEAT ANY COMPARABLE SYSTEM

FREE SOLAR PANEL SYSTEM (UP TO 10kw FOR ELIGIBLE NON PROFIT ORGANISATIONS*)

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR LICENCE NO. 74095 *Conditions apply

FREE \$2000 Holiday Voucher
with your 3kw and above Solar System purchase* Valid until 23 Dec 2012

3kw from \$4,999*
WITH GERMAN INVERTER

5kw from \$8,999*
WITH GERMAN INVERTER

CALL **1300 959 013** OR 07 3161 4315

eurosolar.com.au


Offices in QLD, NSW, VIC & SA: Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm & Sat 10am - 4pm

EURO SOLAR
Taking care of your solar needs



Former LNP pals meet up

IT was the meeting of two of the MPs caught up in the tangles of a stunning week of Parliament. Carl Judge (left) and Ray Hopper crossed paths last night with tales to share of their LNP rejections. Picture: Marc Robertson

	Paper No.: 5412T1798
	Date: 29.11.12
	Member: Miller
Tabled	Tabled, by leave
Incorporated, by leave	Remainder incorporated, by leave
Clerk at the Table:	

officers were awarded an interim pay rise of 1.7 per cent.

The increase is the equivalent of the annual CPI increase in Brisbane, but lower than the 2.7 per cent originally offered to firefighters.

Minister Assisting the Premier on Industrial Relations Glen Elmes said the State Government had been negotiating for months with firefighters for a new agreement.

"Senior fire officers accepted the Government's offer (for a 2.7 per cent rise) at the end of July but the union representing rank and file firefighters refused the offer," Mr Elmes said.

United Firefighters Union of Queensland secretary John Oliver said their fight was more about protecting members' conditions than money.

"The concern that I have is the attacks on firefighters' conditions and the safety risks that come with that," he said.

The UFUQ began rolling stoppages this week to highlight concerns about the Government's enterprise bargaining.

About the House



Good day: Attorney-General Jarrod Bleijie, who wrapped up a fiery Question Time with an amusingly chipper and rapid-fire one-minute speech.

Bad day: Leader of the House Ray Stevens, who was drawn into embarrassing LNP infighting over his role in the dumping of Gold Coast MP Alex Douglas from State Parliament's ethics committee.

Legislation
Introduced: Criminal Proceeds Confiscation (Unexplained Wealth and Serious Drug Offender Confiscation Order) Amendment Bill
Mining and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Debated:
Economic Development Bill
Passed:
Racing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Luggage in the lobby

Sarah Vogler
Kelmeny Fraser

PREMIER Campbell Newman has denied that ministers will be let off the hook under new laws that shift responsibility on to lobbyists to record their meetings with the MPs.

Mr Newman said the changes meant ministers would record lobbyist meetings in their diaries rather than on a lobbyist register but he insisted they would still need to ensure those meetings were recorded accurately.

He said it would increase accountability by boosting the regulation of lobbyists.

However lobbyist group Government Relations Professionals Association president Barton Green accused the Government of "outsourcing ministerial responsibility".

"The State Government's intention to flip responsibility for reporting on lobbyist meetings away from ministers and on to registered lobbyists is an ineffective response to recent sloppy government administration," Mr Green said.

He said the GRPA was concerned the proposed new "burden" would make it more convenient for a business to hire someone who was not a registered lobbyist, provided no transparency and had no code of conduct.

Queensland ethicist Bill De Maria also lashed the Government for placing the onus on unelected businessmen.

"It seems like the Government has been caught on the back foot with certain allegations made and is doing the

completely amateurish thing of delegating its responsibility," Dr De Maria said.

Mr Newman, however, said the changes came after two weeks of consultation with Integrity Commissioner David Solomon.

"If the minister's diary shows a meeting with the lobbyist and it's not there (on the lobbyist's register) then he can go after the lobbyist," Mr Newman said.

"If the lobbyist records a meeting with the minister and it doesn't appear in the diary

... there will be questions."

Dr Solomon said he supported the move to make lobbyists keep a register and admitted there were problems with the current system.

He said the Act did not require government to provide him information, such as records of contact with lobbyists.

"There are some problems with it and I haven't been able to check the records, for example, of some local governments," he said. "This (the changes) will mean there will be a proper record of contact."



the
gonna get theres

Proudly supported by Westpac

With a Westpac Reward Saver account that rewards you the more you save, whatever you're striving for has never been closer.

Talk to us about how we can support you.

earn up to

4.92% p.a.

variable rate

0.01% p.a.

base variable rate

+ 4.91% p.a.

bonus variable rate each month when you deposit \$50 each month and make no withdrawals.



Things you should know: Fees and charges may apply. Read the terms and conditions available at westpac.com.au before making a decision. *To earn bonus interest the minimum deposit amount must be deposited before the last business day of the month. Balances in your account on and after the last business day of the month, including deposits made into your account on or after the last business day of the month, will not be included in the interest calculation for that month, but in the interest calculation the following month. © 2012 Westpac Banking Corporation ABN 33 007 457 141 AFSL and Australian credit licence 233714.

WBC3019/GGT/BCM/10x7/REV