



Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Parliament of Queensland

Media Statement

Wednesday 19 May 2010

NEW DATABASES BRING QUEENSLAND'S FIRST PARLIAMENT TO LIFE

The first years of the Queensland Parliament have been brought to life with the launch and demonstration of two new online databases today.

Speaker John Mickel said that as the parliament approached its 150th anniversary the databases presented a fascinating historical insight into the members and proceedings of the first Queensland Parliament.

"The launch of these two new online resources 'Re-Member' and 'Record of Proceedings 1860-63' means that the people of Queensland now have easy access to records of what happened in their parliament during its first years of operation," Mr Mickel said.

The 'Re-Member' database is a fully searchable resource of biographical information of all of the 59 members of Queensland's first parliament, the term of which lasted from 22 May 1860 to 20 May 1863. Biographical details of all former members of the Queensland will gradually be added to this database.

The 'Record of Proceedings 1860-63' database will eventually present a record of what was said in the first term of the Parliament.

For the period 1860 to 1863, there was no Hansard record of the Queensland Parliament. Instead, reports published in the Moreton Bay Courier newspaper formed an unofficial but vital record of the proceedings of Queensland's first parliament.

These newspaper reports from 1860 have now been transcribed and published on the parliament's website. The reports of the proceedings of the Queensland Parliament from 1861 to 1863 will be added progressively to the 'Record of Proceedings' database during the remainder of 2010.

Mr Mickel said the information contained on these databases was previously only available on microfilm or in biographical registers that most Queenslanders would not readily have the opportunity to access.

"Queenslanders will now be able to easily look online and see records of what was said in the first term of the State's parliament and read biographical details of all of the members of Queensland's first parliament," Mr Mickel said.

"A little known period of Queensland history is now being brought to life and with this information Queenslanders can now learn more about the origins of our great state," Mr Mickel said.

These databases are each located on the Queensland Parliament's website at-

<http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/historical/formermembers/>
<http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/historical/hansard.asp?SubArea=1860>

More information on the Queensland Parliament's 150th anniversary celebrations (P150) is available at <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/p150>

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