1. During the election campaign, the Australian Labor Party released a policy document titled *Labor will ensure that integrity and accountability are restored in Queensland*, which included a commitment that autonomy of the Speaker in Parliament would be restored.
2. In a letter dated 5 February 2015 to Mr Peter Wellington MP, the Premier and Minister for the Arts, as then Leader of the Opposition, committed to amending the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* to ensure that the membership of the CLA includes a member of the Parliament (MP) from the cross benches.
3. The Parliament of Queensland and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015:
* restores autonomy to the position of Speaker by making the Speaker, rather than the Committee of the Legislative Assembly (CLA), responsible for the management of the Parliamentary Service, including its budget, while noting that the employment functions of the Clerk of the Parliament (the Clerk) for the Parliamentary Service will remain;
* provides the Speaker with a deliberative vote at CLA meetings on questions regarding all of the CLAs remaining responsibilities and a casting vote in the case of a tied vote;
* provides that the Speaker, rather than the Leader of the House, is responsible for calling CLA meetings and setting the agenda;
* allows a cross bench member to be included on the membership of the CLA;
* increases the quorum at a CLA meeting from four to five members (MPs) given the increase in the size of the CLA to eight MPs with the inclusion of a cross bench MP;
* retrospectively overturns the determination of the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) which grants a 2.58% salary increase to MPs from 6 April 2015;
* allows the Clerk to recover the salary overpayments to MPs that will accrue until such time as the Tribunal’s determination is overturned; and
* places a limit on the Tribunal so that it cannot determine percentage salary increases to MPs greater than percentage salary increases received by public servants.
1. Cabinet approved that the Parliament of Queensland and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
2. *Attachments*
* [Parliament of Queensland and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)