

Newman's A-grade result for Queensland

ON EVERY significant measure of government – from the handling of the economy to leadership, law and order, health and education, the Newman Government has exceeded expectations.

Campbell Newman was handed a broken government when he became Premier in 2012.

After years of mismanagement, economic vandalism and turmoil, the voters of Queensland declared it was time Labor disappeared for a while to rebuild itself. Queenslanders wanted the united LNP under its new energetic leader to get a chance to set up our state for a prosperous future. Almost three years later, Labor is a long way from rebuilding anything. And the Newman Government is a considerable way down the path to setting up Queensland for a great future.

While Labor leader Anastacia Palaszczuk has toiled admirably with her small band of underperforming MPs carping along around her, there is no real evidence Labor has learnt anything about why it was turfed so unceremoniously from office.

Labor says it has about 30 policies already out there for public consumption. Good luck listing them.

On the other hand, the Newman Government has set about methodically rebuilding Queensland.

In the modern political cycle, where irritating, ill-informed and at times illiterate dunderheads on micro social sites such as Twitter define debates, style all too often trumps substance when it comes to performance.

We are left with a silly focus on language, personality and tone setting the modern media cycle, with shallow websites and grab TV and radio spots from lazy journalists dominating discourse. With the so-called serious ABC dumping its local current affairs TV show, and its radio programs more intent on prosecuting immature agendas and undergraduate conspiracy theories, Queenslanders are being sorely let down.

The Newman Government's law and order approach is a case in point.

The Courier-Mail has been

unashamedly supportive of the crackdown on outlaw bikie gangs, reflecting genuine fear among Queenslanders terrorised by these thugs acting as if they run the state.

For months, the ABC and other media outlets in Brisbane jumped on the ramblings of absurdly conflicted civil libertarians and bikie groups, demonising instead Attorney-General Jarrod Bleijie and Mr Newman.

Both men were recently vindicated in the High Court and, of course, our streets are safer. There is not a skerrick of evidence to suggest the scare campaign was even remotely warranted. But yet both Mr Bleijie and Mr Newman have suffered at the hands of the campaigning left-leaning media outlets and their comrades in the minority left-leaning but noisy legal fraternity.

Dishonourable campaigns waged against good public policy have, to a considerable degree, contributed to public polling that shows the Government's apparently combative style is being judged way above its under-recognised substantive reforms.

The Courier-Mail is committed to serious, and robust, policy debates. While we will highlight mistakes, such as the fumbled opening of the new children's hospital, we will also applaud the much more considerable advances health minister Lawrence Springborg has presided over, or Transport Minister Scott Emerson has driven, or John-Paul Langbroek is pursuing in education. Tim Nicholls has recalibrated the economy in a quiet and efficient manner. Mr Bleijie has suffered a relentless campaign against him while diligently delivering significant legal reforms. And unquestionably the Premier has led from the front, taking the hits as any good leader does.

Despite being tarnished by the ongoing clumsiness of their federal colleagues, Mr Newman has overseen a remarkably bold yet deliberate government that has achieved what it has said it would, unafraid of a scrap along the way. By any measure, that's an A-grade result for Queenslanders.