



## THE IMPACT OF 'ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY AND TRUST' AS AN ISSUE IN THE 2015 QUEENSLAND ELECTION

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The Queensland state election was held on Saturday 31 January 2015.

The *Australia Institute* ran an advertisement calling for accountability in government during the final week of the election campaign, having asked the political parties to endorse four 'principles of good government' identified by the Hon Tony Fitzgerald AC QC, chair of the 1987-9 'Fitzgerald Inquiry'.<sup>1</sup>

The LNP failed to respond<sup>2</sup> until Premier Campbell Newman was forced into a response at the end of the first debate between the two leaders.<sup>3</sup>

The *Australia Institute* commissioned exit polling of 1,429 Queensland voters after the election (the nights of Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4 February 2015). They reported that 'The results were staggering!

- 73% said accountability, transparency and trust in government had a large impact on how they voted (15% said it had a small impact, while 13% said it did not affect how they voted);
- Half (51%) of those polled heard or read about Tony Fitzgerald (with whom the *Australia Institute* developed the 'Fitzgerald Principles') during the campaign. Of those, 62% said Mr Fitzgerald's comments prompted them to give more weight to the need for governments to be open and transparent when they voted;
- That means Tony Fitzgerald and the 'Fitzgerald Principles' had an impact on one in three (32%) Queensland voters.'

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<sup>1</sup> The TJRyan Foundation was a signatory to the advertisement. See: [http://www.tai.org.au/sites/default/files/TAIQOL\\_AdCourierMail\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.tai.org.au/sites/default/files/TAIQOL_AdCourierMail_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> 'LNP refuses to explain stand against Fitzgerald principles', *Brisbane Times*, 22.1.15: <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/queensland-state-election-2015/queensland-election-lnp-refuses-to-explain-stand-against-fitzgerald-principles-20150122-12w6fy.html>

<sup>3</sup> 'Leaders trade blows over political donations', *Brisbane Times*, 20.1.15: <http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/queensland-state-election-2015/queensland-election-leaders-trade-blows-over-political-donations-20150123-12x8il.html>