



Speech by

**Hon. PETER BEATTIE**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

Hansard Tuesday, 17 April 2007

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Council of Australian Governments

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.54 am): On Friday I attended the Council of Australian Governments meeting with my fellow premiers, first ministers and the Prime Minister. I table the communique for the information of the House and seek leave to incorporate details in *Hansard*.

*Tabled paper:* Communique, dated 13 April 2007, by the Council of Australian Governments.

Leave granted.

A number of key issues were discussed including the National Reform Agenda; Infrastructure; Health; Human Influenza Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness; Skills; Indigenous Issues; the Lockhart Review; Counter-terrorism Issues; Double Jeopardy Law Reform; and Local Government Funding.

I would like to outline the results of discussions in one key area today—climate change.

Climate change remains one of the most serious issues facing the nation.

Violent weather events such as Cyclone Larry and the recent tsunami scare are expected to increase in frequency if climate change continues unabated.

These dramatic shifts in weather patterns have the potential to cost the economy billions of dollars particularly in areas such as tourism and agricultural production.

That is why I am pleased to report that COAG endorsed a National Adaptation Framework for climate change.

The framework includes possible actions to assist the most vulnerable sectors and regions, such as agriculture, biodiversity, fisheries, forestry, settlements and infrastructure, coastal, water resources, tourism and health to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

I also welcome the Commonwealth's commitment of up to \$26 million to establish and manage the Australian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation and \$100 million program funding for the Centre over five years.

The work will assist affected sectors and regions, planning bodies, farmers, businesses and local government to understand better the impacts of climate change and to develop responses.

The adaptation centre will be managed by the Commonwealth but will work closely with the States and related bodies to ensure a coordinated national approach as envisaged by the National Adaptation Framework.

Mr Speaker, I will be lobbying strongly to ensure that the Centre is located in the Smart State.

After all we are the first State or Territory to establish our own Centre for Climate Change Excellence.

It establishes our credentials as a national leader in driving climate change science and policy.

With 54 staff including 40 scientists, it is already a significant powerhouse which brings science and policy together to chart the way forward for our regions, economies and our environment.

Mr Speaker, the COAG meeting was productive and once again underscored the effectiveness of the democratic and cooperative system of federalism that exists in our country.