



Speech by


Hon. Campbell Newman

MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

G20 Summit

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (2.08 pm): I rise today to advise the House that Queensland will host the G20 leaders summit in Brisbane on 15 and 16 November 2014 and a G20 finance ministers meeting will also be held in a regional Queensland centre. The G20 is made up of the finance ministers and central bank governors of 19 countries and the European Union. It is the premier forum for international economic development and promotes open and constructive discussion between industrial and emerging-market countries on key issues related to global economic stability.

Clearly the summit is a logistical and organisational challenge, but Queensland is well experienced in facilitating international meetings, including the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2002, the APEC finance ministers meeting in 2007, and the Pacific Islands Forum in 2009. We will work cooperatively with the Commonwealth to ensure a successful outcome. While this is an important meeting for Australia, my government has carefully considered the project in terms of the state's priorities. We have examined the impacts of such a significant undertaking, both positive and otherwise, including the resource implications and possible disruption to the community. While Queensland is ready and willing to host an excellent summit for those world leaders, the events required involve considerable expenses, especially when it comes to security and policing.

With the former state Labor government leaving behind a \$2.8 billion operating deficit and a debt fast approaching \$100 billion, Queensland is not in a position to contribute a significant amount of funding towards the cost of hosting the G20 leaders summit. As this event is clearly a Commonwealth government responsibility, an agreement has been reached that the Commonwealth government will pay the majority of costs, as it has with similar events in other states. I am pleased to report that the Prime Minister has agreed to the Queensland government's request for funding, including additional police costs, directly associated with hosting the event.

At my request, the Australian government has also given an undertaking that no Queensland community will be left with inadequate police resources due to the summit. In line with previous major events hosted by the Australian government, responsibility for G20 security planning will be divided between the G20 task force, the Australian government and the state government. The Australian government has also agreed, in good faith, to provide an element of funding to bring forward work to upgrade Queensland's communication network from analog to digital, particularly for the police. This is a measure for ensuring important public security during this event and will provide a much needed resource for Queensland police ahead of the planned schedule.

Hosting the G20 leaders summit will provide worldwide exposure to Queensland and a significant boost to our economy as some 4,000 delegates and over 3,000 members of the international and domestic media will visit our state. The summit will provide a direct investment in Queensland through the use of hotels, the engagement of local service providers and providing jobs in the lead-up to and planning of the summit. It is against this background that I am pleased to confirm the willingness of the Queensland government to work with the Commonwealth to ensure a successful G20 leaders summit. I thank Prime Minister Gillard and her government for making this decision and for backing Queensland.