



Speech by

Hon. Campbell Newman

MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE

Hansard Thursday, 29 November 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Overseas Trade Mission

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (9.45 am): Tonight I will fly out leading a large group of Queensland companies on an overseas mission to India to find new exporting and investment opportunities for our industries. Seventy-five representatives from 66 companies are joining me on a five-city visit which takes in Mumbai, Mundra, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Kolkata, with a focus on developing Queensland's resources, tourism, agriculture, construction and education sectors. This mission is about opening doors for Queensland companies with some of India's key decision makers. It will include meetings with companies such as Adani Group, GVK and Tata Group—companies with diversified interests and investments across a range of key industry sectors.

Coinciding with my visit will also be Oz Fest, the largest and most expansive Australian cultural festival ever held in India. There are also three Queensland missions happening at the same time: Tourism Queensland's Queensland on Tour mission promoting our state as a tourist destination and two Trade and Investment Queensland missions—an education and training mission to Mumbai, Hyderabad and Kolkata as well as the mining, equipment, technology and services mission.

India is a major trading partner for Queensland, with merchandise exports worth more than \$6 billion in 2011-12, making India the state's fourth largest merchandise export destination. Some of India's best and brightest students also choose to study in Queensland, with enrolments of nearly 12,000 in 2011-12. We are also starting to receive more Indian tourists, with the value of our India visitation going to \$210 million in the financial year 2011-12.

I believe the best years of Queensland-India relations are ahead of us and the best opportunities for both India and Queensland exist right now. It is a time for a partnership that will be of great benefit to Queensland and India. I look forward to strengthening our ties and forging new ones. I take this opportunity to officially notify the House that the Deputy Premier and member for Callide will be the Acting Premier during my short absence and he has my full support as he takes on that temporary role.