




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 17 July 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Council of Australian Governments, Leaders Retreat

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): Next Wednesday I will be attending a COAG leaders retreat being hosted by the Prime Minister. This retreat provides first ministers the opportunity to meet and take time to discuss reform of our Federation, particularly revitalising the allocation of roles and responsibilities between the Commonwealth and the states. Key topics or areas for discussion include education and health, housing and homelessness, and intergovernmental institutional arrangements.

My government is committed to playing a constructive role in these discussions, and I anticipate discussing a range of reform measures that will help to improve how our Federation functions. However, any proposed reforms such as simplifying current Commonwealth-state arrangements must deliver better services and outcomes for Queenslanders, drive economic growth and improve accountability. I am going to this meeting determined to get the best deal for Queensland and the best deal for Queensland families. I am going to this meeting with the specific intention of making it clear to the Prime Minister and his government that Queensland will not miss out.

For these discussions to be successful, it will be necessary for all parties to be respectful and to genuinely seek to understand the views put forward by other participants. On the important topic of reform of our Federation, I look forward to participating in a constructive, genuine retreat with the COAG first ministers to explore options that deliver fair outcomes for all Australians. However, be assured that I will always advocate on the side of Queenslanders throughout this process.