

# Brisbane set to host G20 conference in 2014

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**CANBERRA will pick up almost the entire tab for the G20 Leaders' summit in Brisbane in 2014, including the considerable cost of extra police and security.**

Premier Campbell Newman has made it clear Queensland is in no position to pay for the summit - budgeted to cost \$370m over four years - which will be attended by more than 7000 delegates.

## [NSW steaming over Queensland's latest coup](#)

In a statement this morning, Mr Newman said Queensland was ready and willing to work with the Australian Government to host an "excellent summit" but "these events involved considerable expense".

"The former Labor Government left behind a \$2.8 billion deficit and debt fast approaching \$100 billion and therefore Queensland is not in a position to contribute a significant amount of funding toward the cost of hosting the G20 Leaders' Summit," Mr Newman said.

"I am pleased to announce that as this event is clearly a Commonwealth Government responsibility, agreement has been reached that the Commonwealth will pay the majority of costs, as it has with similar events in other states."

He said Prime Minister Julia Gillard had also agreed to pay the additional police costs directly associated with hosting the event.

"Importantly, the Australian Government has also given an undertaking that no Queensland community will be left with inadequate police resources due to the Summit," he said.

The Australian Government had also agreed in good faith to provide funding to bring forward work to upgrade Queensland's communications network from analogue to digital.

"This is a win for Queensland as it will improve our communications capabilities," Mr Newman said.

Confirming the Summit would be held in Brisbane, Ms Gillard said the former Bligh Government set the wheels in motion for the successful bid.

She re-assured Queenslanders that Canberra would pick up most of the \$370 million bill for the event, which would require one of the most complex security operations on earth, including the protection of the US president.

Ms Gillard said the eyes of the world would be on Brisbane during the summit as 7000 delegates arrive in the city.

"I am also very confident that we will see 20 world leaders jet in but we will see 20 fully fledged Queenslanders fly out," Ms Gillard said.

The Prime Minister said when the Commonwealth called for expressions of interest in holding the G20 it was the former government of Labor Premier Anna Bligh that stepped forward.

"The then Bligh Government originally said they were interested," Ms Gillard said.

"And when Premier Newman came too office I spoke to him personally about it.

"And he said Queensland was 'very interested' and that is why we are here today."

**Earlier,** *The Courier-Mail* reported that the world's most powerful leaders would visit Brisbane in 2014 for the G20 conference.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard will today announce that Brisbane will host the gathering, which brings together the heads of powerhouse nations such as the US, Britain, China and Russia for annual talks.

A regional Queensland city will host a meeting of the G20 finance leaders, including the federal government's treasurer, so the benefits of the summit are spread throughout the state.

"With Queensland a driving force behind the nation's economy, there could be no better place to welcome the world's leaders than Brisbane," Ms Gillard said.

"Hosting the G20 in 2014 provides an invaluable opportunity for Australia to influence the global economic agenda."

Deputy Prime Minister Wayne Swan said Brisbane had played a key role in Australia's economic success, despite major setbacks created by last year's floods.

"The benefits to Brisbane of hosting this forum will extend across the hospitality, transport and tourism sectors, as well as many other service providers, delivering a major boost to countless Brisbane businesses over the five days of the summit," Mr Swan said.

"The G20 will put Brisbane at the centre of world events for those five days, and will showcase our thriving River City and Australia at its best."

The Leaders' Summit, scheduled for November 15 and 16 in 2014, will put Brisbane on the world's economic map, attracting not only the political chiefs but also heads of the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Labour Organisation, the World Trade Organisation and the International Monetary Fund.

They will be joined by 4000 delegates and about 3000 accredited media.

The announcement will probably boost Labor's standing in Queensland, with Ms Gillard delivering the world's biggest political names to the state.

Brisbane beat bids from other Australian cities, winning because of factors including its convention centre and the flexibility of its airport to host the world summit.

Brisbane was able to tick every box authorities were considering, with the airport having no curfew and offering sufficient parking space to host the world leaders.

The Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre was available and big enough to host the Leaders' Summit.

Other business and labour forums will also be held across the city to coincide with the summit.

The Federal Government will employ a G20 Taskforce, largely from Queensland, and coordinate 500 volunteers to plan and deliver the event.

Coolumbia on the Sunshine Coast held the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 2002, which included the Queen's attendance, but Queensland has not hosted anything on the scale of a G20 summit.

Last month, Ms Gillard joined President Barack Obama, British Prime Minister David Cameron, Russian President Vladimir Putin and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the 2012 G20 conference in Mexico.

By holding the 2014 summit, Australia will join the G20's three-member management group from 2013-15.

Ms Gillard said hosting the event provided a "vital platform to build on Australia's role in global economic decision-making".

The event's legacy is rooted in attempts by the world leaders to come together in 2008 to battle the global financial crisis. Previously the summits had not necessarily included political leaders.

Member states agreed to work together to achieve global economic stability and to do what they could to prevent further economic crises.

As host nation, Australia will have the opportunity to invite countries to join the G20 group at the summit.

Ms Gillard said the G20 forum would provide opportunities for other communities across Australia, with preparatory meetings of delegations being staged in the lead-up to the Leaders' Summit.

"These meetings are also large events and are likely to take place in locations across Australia and those details will be announced as we get closer to the G20 Summit," she said.

Previous host cities include London, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Seoul, Cannes, and Los Cabos in Mexico. In 2013, the G20 will be held in St Petersburg, Russia.



US president Barack Obama travels with a heavy security presence.

*Source: AP*

### **Security blanket over River City**

IT WILL be a security exercise never before seen in Queensland.

The level of protection that comes with the world's 20 most powerful leaders will mean the military, police and foreign agencies will work together to throw up an unprecedented cordon.

Not even the Sydney Olympics - which were held before the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, in the US - had the sort of security required for the G20 meeting.

While the individual leaders each have their own needs, the meeting as a whole has been a target of violence in the past. More than 1000 people were arrested in Toronto in 2010 during protests that lasted a week.

The US President alone travels with an entourage that requires a host city to go into virtual lock-down.

During other international summits, such as APEC, the US delegation usually books out and locks down an entire hotel, sending its own special agents in for security sweeps up to a week ahead of the President's arrival.

The President travels on Air Force One, itself a flying fortress, and a back-up identical aircraft also comes. The President's armoured car - which reportedly has a self-contained air system in case of gas attack - rides as part of a 20-vehicle motorcade.

Roads on the President's route are routinely closed to general traffic and entire city blocks can be locked down, with armed snipers positioned up high.

The Russian President and the German Chancellor require similar arrangements while others, including the UN Secretary General, have more discreet but equally impressive security.

It is understood one of the reasons Brisbane fits the requirements for such a difficult assignment is that a large number of private aeroplanes can be parked in safety at the airport.

None of the other Australian capitals can offer such a facility within a short distance to the city.

## **Q&A**

### **What is the G20?**

A group of 19 countries plus the European Union, with representatives from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The group comes together to consult on international finance and economic policy.

The group represents almost 90 per cent of global GDP, 80 per cent of international global trade and 64 per cent of the world's population.

The G20 was formed in 1999 but the Leaders Summit only began in 2008 when then US president George W. Bush invited the leaders to Washington DC to co-ordinate the response to the global financial crisis.

### **What does hosting the Leaders Summit mean for Australia?**

In hosting the summit, Australia joins the powerful G20 "troika" - a three-member management committee for the group - from 2013-15.

### **Where are the summits held?**

Summits have been held in London, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Seoul, Cannes and Mexico. In 2013, the G20 will be held in St Petersburg in Russia. In 2014, it will be in Brisbane.

### **What does the G20 do?**

Policy co-ordination between members to achieve global economic stability and sustainable growth.

Promotes financial regulations that prevent future financial crises.

Aims to create a new international financial architecture.

**Why does it keep moving?**

Actually, it might end up staying in one place. In 2010, French president Nicolas Sarkozy suggested finding a permanent home, lessening the security burdens placed on host cities and allowing for a permanent staff.

Both Paris, France, and Seoul, South Korea, were suggested but some delegates opposed establishing a permanent base. South Korea suggested the G20 meet in cyberspace