



Speech By  
**Michael Pucci**

**MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

---

Record of Proceedings, 29 October 2013

### **G20 (SAFETY AND SECURITY) BILL**

 **Mr PUCCI** (Logan—LNP) (8.56 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the G20 (Safety and Security) Bill 2013. In November 2014 Queensland will welcome world and financial leaders to Brisbane and Cairns for one of the world's premier economic summits, the G20. However, events like the G20 have been known to come with the destruction of public property, violence, riots and the all-too-famous rent-a-crowd. By bringing together some of the most powerful leaders in the world, the G20 will place Queensland front and centre on the world stage and serves as a wonderful opportunity to promote Brisbane in the global arena.

G20 nations account for 85 per cent of the world economy, 80 per cent of global trade and two-thirds of the world's population. The focus of the G20 is on allowing these nations to discuss ways to strengthen the global economy, reform international financial institutions, improve financial regulation and discuss key economic reforms needed in each member nation. The fact that an important event such as the G20 is being held in Queensland is testament to the confidence world leaders have in Queensland's citizens and the government.

The presence of the world's most powerful leaders also comes with the responsibility to protect against threat to the personal safety of those attending the event and residents of the whole city. For many years, and especially since 2001, the threat of a terrorist type attack on Australian soil has been present in the minds of our intelligence services, police services and supporting agencies. One of the greatest threats to the peaceful nature of our community during the summit may not come from foreign terror organisations but could, rather, come from home-grown anarchists. An often used quote by security and defence specialists is, 'We have to be lucky every time. They only have to be lucky once.'

In 2007, with the APEC summit, and in 2011, with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, our police agencies and security services, in conjunction with elements of the Australian Defence Force, successfully protected heads of state from around the globe. This was achieved with a well-resourced protective force that was supported with the appropriate legislation that empowered them to get the job done.

This bill is as much about protecting world leaders as it is about protecting residents, because rent-a-crowds do not think twice before needlessly destroying private property and businesses. This bill is also important to ensure the harmonisation of local business and industry throughout the course of the summit.

In all facets of society, most residents are honourable and abide by the law; however, there are those who seek nothing more than an outlet to cause anarchy and mayhem. Like our most heinous criminals, these offenders care little for our laws, bar when it comes to their own rights—the very rights they seek to deprive law-abiding citizens of.

When the media breaks a headline titled 'G20', some may remember the civil disobedience, destruction and violence of previous summits—images of historic London landmarks, serene

Canadian towns and once peaceful streets that were stifled with demonstrators who, whilst employing black bloc tactics, tore away the social fabric of communities. To protect our residents from both domestic and foreign threats, we must enact legislation that allows our officers on the front line the appropriate tools to deal with potential threats before they evolve into a serious or harmful situation. The damage bill in cities across the globe in the wake of these protesters can place a heavy financial burden, not to mention creating a physical scar, on the host cities. In one day alone during the 2010 Toronto G20 summit, protesters caused \$750,000 worth of damage and saw over 40 businesses within the Toronto CBD vandalised. Do we want this anarchy on the streets of Brisbane? Do we want Queen Street Mall turned into a battle ground? There is only one answer: no, we do not.

Many demonstrations of this calibre often see such tactics as black bloc being implemented. Black bloc is a tactic for protests and marches where individuals wear black clothing, scarves, sunglasses, ski masks, motorcycle helmets with padding or other face-concealing and face-protecting items. There is no other reason a protester would engage in a demonstration in this manner other than to commit criminal offences whilst concealing their identity, ultimately hindering any chance of prosecution. The G20 summit will undoubtedly be a test on the resources and skills of our Police Service and other law enforcement agencies. However, knowing well the exemplary level of professional dedication to their duties, this will be a test that the service and her officers will comfortably achieve and will become a great success story in the operational history of the Queensland Police Service. The Queensland Police Service is the most professional law enforcement organisation in the country and our government's continued commitment to revitalise our Police Service by targeted recruiting of over 1,100 new officers as well as redeploying support officers to the front line, investment in new airborne capabilities and the economy of management of social media means that our state's ability to fight crime has evolved with the modern times and demands. With these resources and the legislation contained within this bill, the QPS will be in the best possible position to face the challenges that arise from an event with such notoriety.

It must be known that attacks on innocent bystanders, businesses, homes and police will not be tolerated. We will not let a handful of rabble-rousers or anarchists destroy our beautiful city. Responsible, good governments do whatever they can to provide safe communities. Responsible, good governments protect the residents within those communities. Based on the track record of other host cities, Brisbane must be ready to deal with every scenario, and as a government we intend to live up to our responsibility and obligation to the people of Queensland. We must not let Brisbane be added to the list of cities that these social degenerates have trashed, leaving a considerable cost of damage in their wake. This bill creates temporary provisions that allow police officers to prevent offenders from disrupting the good harmony and order of our community. Despite the rhetoric from the opposition, this is not a bill that will deprive Queenslanders of their civil rights but, in fact, protect them. This bill also serves as a sign of faith in our Police Service. When a police officer is appointed or commissioned and assigned to a station, they are placed in a position of great trust—a position that protects and serves our community in some of the most challenging of situations. The bill will create special authority that enables law enforcement officers from interstate and regional partners who are assisting in the event the authority to carry out their duties and play an active role in supporting the security operations throughout the summit. This will ensure that local police units throughout Queensland will not be operationally impeded and that residents of communities like Logan will continue to have a firm and responsive police presence.

This legislation will not infringe on the privacy of civilians during the summit. Respectful practices will be implemented when our officers are dealing with the community. An individual's personal circumstances such as gender and religion will be treated with the utmost respect at all times. Officers with linguistic skills will be deployed throughout the defined area and will be ready to respond to any challenges that may arise quickly and with minimum fuss. The powers and responsibilities outlined in this bill will not be a permanent fixture, with many of the provisions expiring at the conclusion of the summit. These are special times and they require special measures—measures that will not outlast their necessity. The G20 will provide valuable experience to various elements of the Queensland community as we prepare our state to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games. I commend the efforts of the Minister for Police and Community Safety for his ongoing commitment to improving our state's law enforcement capability. With support from his ministerial and departmental staff, the minister has brought about some of the most pivotal changes in developing the police and community safety sector—an achievement the minister and his staff can be immensely proud of. I look forward to welcoming the world leaders to Queensland and seeing a new age in relations with our regional and global partners being established. With the successful execution of this prestigious event, the world will see why Queensland is a great state with great opportunities. I support this bill's passage in the House.