

**EDUCATION, TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**2015 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 14**

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THE EDUCATION, TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS, SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (HON KATE JONES MP)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to page 38 of the Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games service delivery statement providing funding certainty for the tourism sector, will the Minister provide any advice provided to the former Government from the Tourism and Events Queensland Board in relation to their inability to deliver core functions as a result of funding uncertainty?

**ANSWER:**

I thank the Committee for the question.

On becoming Minister, one of the first pieces of correspondence I received was a letter from former Tourism and Events Queensland Board Chair Stephen Gregg regarding the dire funding situation of Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) because of the failure of the previous government to provide sufficient funding.

In his letter, it is clear that the former government were given urgent advice that many major events, business events and regional events were at risk because the only forward funding confirmed by the previous government was a base funding of \$65 million and that no funding had been allocated in the mid-year budget review in December 2014. This confirms that the LNP was planning right up until the election to slash funding for TEQ and ultimately the tourism industry.

I am pleased to advise that in the Palaszczuk Government's first Budget we were able to address these matters and Tourism and Events Queensland has the forward funding required to undertake future negotiations in good faith.

**EDUCATION, TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**2015 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 15**

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THE EDUCATION, TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS, SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (HON KATE JONES MP)—

**QUESTION:**

I refer to page 64 of Budget Measures in relation to the budget for Tourism and Events Queensland and ask – Can the Minister provide a detailed breakdown (including documentation) to support her statement on 21 June 2015 that the former LNP Government reduced \$188M in funding for Tourism and Events Queensland over the forward estimates?

**ANSWER:**

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to growing Queensland's tourism industry by providing funding certainty of \$400 million over four years.

The forward estimates were provided to me by Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) to substantiate their concerns that the former LNP Government planned to cut funding for TEQ by \$188 million over four years.

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**2015 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 16**

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THE EDUCATION, TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS, SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (HON KATE JONES MP)—

**QUESTION:**

I refer to page 33 of the SDS in relation to Queensland's 13 Regional Tourism Organisations (RTOs) and ask – Can the Minister outline the funding breakdown for each RTO (reported separately) with separate line items for core funding and awarded contestable funding for the 2015/16 budget year?

**ANSWER:**

<b>Regional Tourism Organisation</b>	<b>Core funding<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Awarded Contestable Grant Funds</b>
Brisbane Marketing	Up to \$300,000	\$415,115
Bundaberg North Burnett Tourism	Up to \$300,000	\$95,000
Capricorn Enterprise	Up to \$300,000	\$0
Fraser Coast Opportunities	Up to \$300,000	\$140,000
Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Ltd	Up to \$300,000	\$30,000
Gold Coast Tourism	Up to \$300,000	\$800,000
Mackay Tourism Ltd	Up to \$300,000	\$0
Outback Queensland Tourism Association	Up to \$300,000	\$242,932
Southern Queensland Country Tourism	Up to \$365,000	\$188,253
Sunshine Coast Destination Ltd	Up to \$300,000	\$90,000
Townsville Enterprise	Up to \$300,000	\$189,175

Tropical North Queensland	Up to \$300,000	\$547,250
Whitsundays Marketing and Development Ltd	Up to \$300,000	\$66,000

1. The Core Grant provided by TEQ in 2015–16 will match dollar for dollar up to \$300,000 the contributions made by the RTO's local government partners for tourism projects and activities with special arrangements for Outback Queensland Tourism Association and Southern Queensland Country Tourism.

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##### No. 17

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THE EDUCATION, TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS, SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (HON KATE JONES MP)—

#### QUESTION:

I thank the Committee for the question.

I refer to page 65 of Budget Measures in relation to the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund (AAIF), implemented by the former LNP Government and ask – Can the Minister outline:

- a) How much of 2014/15 AAIF budget was unspent and re-allocated to the AAIF budget for 2015/16;
- b) Has the criteria used for funding under this program been changed for 2015/16 and across the forward estimates; and
- c) What is the current criteria to secure AAIF funding?

#### ANSWER:

I can confirm the 2015–16 State Budget includes \$10 million over three years for the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund (AIF). This is new money in line with our election commitment and includes no carry over from the previous budget.

- a) I have been advised by the Department of Tourism, Major Events, and Small Business and Tourism and Events Queensland that details of AIF funding and negotiations, should remain commercial-in-confidence as releasing it publicly could jeopardise the commercial viability of the projects and undermine the government's investments. I understand this has been a longstanding arrangement under the AIF program.
- b) No. The only change in the forward estimates is to demonstrate the funding increase by the Palaszczuk Government.
- c) Applications under the fund are assessed on the merits of the proposal and how it meets each of the mandatory eligibility criteria. For example, considerations include whether the proposal:
  - represents a strategic investment in Queensland's aviation development;

- represents the best value for money, achieving the greatest outcome at the least cost and risk to taxpayers;
- demonstrates strong accountability safeguards to ensure incentives are spent in accordance with the intent of the AAIF and the state's interests are protected and risk is managed appropriately;
- justifies the decision to invest and the amount of the offer, based on robust, credible economic analysis;
- leverages contributions from other partners, such as regional tourism organisations, Tourism Australia, airport corporations and Tourism and Events Queensland.

**EDUCATION, TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**2015 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 18**

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THE EDUCATION, TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS, SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (HON KATE JONES MP)—

**QUESTION:**

The Townsville Entertainment Centre is identified as a Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games venue for preliminary rounds of the basketball competition (SDS p.24). Will the Minister advise what funding is available in the 2015-16 budget to deliver the Commonwealth Games in this region?

**ANSWER:**

The regional events being staged for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games are fundamental to ensuring the Games are a truly state-wide experience. The Commonwealth Games 2018 provides a unique opportunity to showcase Queensland, including the host city of the Gold Coast and the event cities of Townsville, Cairns and Brisbane, to the world. It is the largest event to be held in Australia in the next decade. The Government is engaging with regional communities including Townsville to ensure that the benefits and experience of this major event are felt throughout Queensland.

The 2015-16 budget includes allocation of \$2.6 million over the next three financial years for work associated with hosting preliminary rounds of the basketball competition at the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre.

This includes funding for temporary overlay works such as field of play (branding and dressing), media facilities, compound spaces (broadcast, logistics, catering, waste), lighting, temporary offices and security fencing. Detailed planning is still being undertaken.

The majority of the expenditure to prepare the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre for the Commonwealth Games 2018 is likely to occur in the 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years.

In addition, planning is currently being undertaken for the arts and cultural program which will include activities in Townsville designed to engage residents of the city in the Games experience. Expenditure for the arts and cultural program in the Townsville region and other

activities associated with maintaining the operation of the city during the events are still to be determined.

With less than three years to go until the Commonwealth Games I am determined to work with all Queensland communities to ensure that we maximise opportunities to benefit all Queenslanders.



**EDUCATION, TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**2015 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**No. 19**

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THE EDUCATION, TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS, SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (HON KATE JONES MP)—

**QUESTION:**

With reference to page 2 of the Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games service delivery statement, will the Minister provide an update on funding provided in the 2015-16 budget to support growth and jobs in the small business sector?

**ANSWER:**

I would like to thank the Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee for their question.

As mentioned on page 2 of the Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games service delivery statement, the Department is responsible for initiatives to strengthen the State's small business sector, including facilitating the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council, the Red Tape Reduction Advisory Council and the Queensland Small Business Week.

The Government has made it a priority to engage with the business community and listen to the issues that impact on businesses getting ahead.

To deliver on this commitment, I have re-established the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council to engage and consult more closely with the small business community. This Council will create a direct line of communication between small business and the Government and has been expanded to include more small business owners. This is to ensure that we not only hear from peak bodies and industry groups but directly from small business owners.

In addition to the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council, I have recently established the Red Tape Reduction Advisory Council. Red tape is widely accepted as a significant inhibitor to business growth and productivity. The Council, will provide advice on red, green and blue tape areas of most concern to small business, and will ensure Queensland's

regulatory environment is well balanced and enables businesses to be strong, profitable and globally competitive.

I chaired a joint meeting of both the Queensland Small Business and Red Tape Reduction Advisory Councils on 20 August 2015. I look forward to working closely with members of both Councils to identify priorities to grow small business and reduce the regulatory burden.

In addition to these initiatives, \$2 million has been allocated to the Queensland Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow program to stimulate an entrepreneurial culture for wealth generating industries of the future. Under the program, \$1 million is being allocated towards entrepreneurial and business development education and learning programs in Queensland schools and \$1 million for a Home-Based Business Grants Program to provide up to \$5000 to assist stay-at-home parents develop and grow home-based businesses.

Applications for the Home-Based Business Grants Program opened on 24 August 2015, and applications can be made online at [www.business.qld.gov.au/homebusinessgrants](http://www.business.qld.gov.au/homebusinessgrants).

The Government has also committed an additional \$4.7 million for 2015–16 to improve and transform services offered through the Business and Industry Portal. The portal brings together over 1300 services online, on behalf of 13 Queensland Government agencies, making it easier to do business, and helping small businesses to be more competitive.

The Government is dedicated to supporting business in Queensland and has committed over \$186.7 million in the 2015–16 State Budget to deliver business development initiatives, and encourage research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The budget delivers support for Queensland small businesses to encourage growth and create jobs. A key announcement in the Budget is the \$180 million Advance Queensland initiative, which will not only strengthen our research talent base, but our business sector too, by stimulating a thriving start-up culture, and a vibrant venture capital sector. Under this initiative, \$40 million has been allocated to set-up a Business Development Fund which will provide funding to kick-start innovative businesses, and help make their ideas a commercial reality. The Fund will provide businesses with access to the start-up capital they need to create new opportunities and productive capacity.

Funding has also been allocated to establish a Knowledge Transfer Partnerships program, to enable small to medium enterprises employ postgraduate students to assist in developing their products and services. This investment will not only support job creation, but give small and medium-sized enterprises an injection of new ideas and talent, and access to the latest research in their industry.

The Start-up Queensland program has been allocated \$24 million to encourage a new wave of Queensland businesses, by providing access to the support they need for accelerated growth. Through this Program, the government will work with existing incubators and

accelerator programs to provide an integrated suite of seed funding, co-working space, mentoring and connection to customers and markets. This Program will give our emerging innovative small businesses the start they need to get on track to success quickly.

The budget will also give a boost to Queensland's small tourism operators with \$400 million committed to grow the Tourism industry over the next four years. With nine in ten tourism businesses in Queensland being small businesses, productive and sustainable small tourism operators are very important to the Queensland economy.

## EDUCATION, TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

### 2015 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

#### QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 20

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THE EDUCATION, TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS, SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (HON KATE JONES MP)—

#### QUESTION:

I refer to page 36 of the SDS, and ask since the assent of the Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 can the Minister advise how many public servants with the Department's staffing allocation have had their details supplied to unions under the Government's Union Encouragement Policy listed in the following format for the Department of Education and Training and the Department of Tourism, Small Business, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games.

#### ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government made a commitment to restore fairness for government workers.

Union encouragement was one of the many conditions of employment rendered unenforceable during the former government's term. I am proud to defend the right of every worker to join, or not to join, their union.

The *Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2015* (the Act) is one of the ways the Palaszczuk Government is delivering on its commitments. From June 2015, the Act restores the ability for union members to organise and protect workers' employment conditions, including re-enlivening any provisions within industrial instruments requiring new employee details to be passed onto relevant unions

These amendments were important because the former government went further than any Queensland government in history in attacking workers' rights.

The union encouragement policy released in May 2015 provides for new employees to have ready access to a union representative so that they can make an informed decision about whether or not to join a union. The policy operates subject to relevant legislation.

The manner regarding release and reporting of new employee details will vary depending on the industrial instrument. The Government will be consolidating the number of new

employee details provided to unions across the public sector on a quarterly basis. Quarterly reporting is in line with a number of public sector certified agreements such as the State Government Department Certified Agreement (the Core Agreement) which covers nearly 50,000 public servants. From June 2015, the re-enlivened provisions provides that information about new starters is to be provided to relevant unions on a quarterly basis. While some agencies may have released new employee details to unions, the first full quarterly report (the September quarter report) consolidating the number of new employee details provided to unions across the public sector will be available in October 2015.

All public servants are protected by privacy laws and agencies are responsible for complying with those laws. Each agency is required to comply with their relevant industrial instrument(s) regarding union encouragement, including reporting timeframes.