



Speech by

**Hon. MERRI ROSE**

**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

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Hansard 28 November 2001

### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

#### **Cruise Shipping Plan**

**Hon. M. ROSE** (Currumbin—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading) (10.03 a.m.), by leave: Cabinet this week endorsed the Queensland cruise shipping plan—our blueprint for industry growth. The plan, which has been developed over the past two years, will provide the framework for the first coordinated state government approach to cruise shipping decisions. The aim is to dramatically boost Queensland's share of the lucrative cruising industry.

The plan, which was taken to cabinet by myself and State Development Minister Tom Barton, includes a comprehensive list of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to cruise shipping in Queensland. Its key objectives are to promote Queensland as a cruise destination; facilitate cruise infrastructure prioritisation and development; create opportunities for base porting cruise vessels in Queensland; increase the potential for military vessel visits; and reduce regulatory and policy impediments to cruising. The aim is to maximise the economic benefits for Queensland by providing a framework on which all government decisions regarding cruising and cruise infrastructure in Queensland can be based; outlining the vision and strategy for the future of cruising in Queensland; and detailing specific actions and time frames for planning, developing, managing, operating and marketing cruising in Queensland. The plan is the result of extensive industry and government consultation. It has been developed over the past two years and this consultative approach will continue with the progression of the actions outlined.

Cruise shipping is worth an estimated \$200 million annually to Australia. However, although Queensland receives about 70 per cent of all cruise ship visits, we get only about \$14 million—or seven per cent—of this expenditure. Cruising in Queensland is potentially worth up to \$83 million annually so it is essential that we have a coordinated approach to tap into this potential. Growing the cruise shipping market will distribute income directly into regional and local economies, create jobs, boost the global profile of our regional centres and encourage significant repeat visitation.

Queensland is perfectly positioned to benefit from cruising. There is international awareness of our spectacular natural icons such as the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef, tropical islands and rainforests and a whole host of other diverse attractions within easy reach of potential ports.

The draft plan found that one of the most significant impediments to cruise shipping in Queensland is the lack of ability of the port of Brisbane to guarantee a berth for cruise ships. Already progress has been made. Last July, expressions of interest were called by State Development for the development of a cruise terminal on the north side of the Brisbane River at Hamilton and a two-stage competitive process was put in place. Six expressions of interest had been received when the process closed in September. That number has been narrowed to three proposals, all involving a range of ancillary development, including commercial and residential, to complement the cruise terminal facilities.

The next step will be for the short-listed groups to prepare detailed development proposals, which are expected by February next year. Those detailed proposals will be reviewed and by mid next year the nomination of a preferred developer is expected with the execution of a development agreement around September next year. It is anticipated that the project will take about two years to design and construct. Provision of this facility in Brisbane will provide a boost to the industry and allow cruise operators to plan long-term itineraries including Queensland waters.