




Speech by

Seath Holswich

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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MORETON BAY HINTERLAND, TOURISM

 **Mr HOLSWICH** (Pine Rivers—LNP) (3.47 pm): On Tuesday, 26 June I hosted a public forum in the township of Dayboro to discuss the tourism potential of our Moreton Bay hinterland region. With support from the members for Kallangur, Ferny Grove and Glass House, I held this forum to kick-start discussions around the strengths of our beautiful region, the opportunities for growth in tourism in our region as well as the challenges and problems we need to overcome if we are to bring more tourism jobs and more tourism dollars into our region.

The forum was attended by a good number of local business owners, experienced local tourism operators, representatives of recreation organisations and many others with an interest in local tourism. The forum was held on the same date as the Newman government's highly successful DestinationQ forum in Cairns, and I would like to acknowledge the support that the Minister for Tourism and her office provided to our forum. With so many resources already committed to DestinationQ, I thank the minister for sending one of her staff to our forum. I think this support underlines the commitment of the Newman government to developing our tourism industry throughout Queensland's regions.

The forum was the first step in a process that I hope will lead to increased tourism activity in our region. Since the forum I have collated the ideas that were raised both at the forum and by others who could not attend on the night and I have released a draft action plan that lists around 60 actions. There are ideas and suggestions that talk about road infrastructure, marketing opportunities, government red tape, horse-riding and walking trails and much more. I readily acknowledge that not all ideas on the list will be achievable, but each and every idea will be investigated and action taken to progress as many of them as possible. This report is now available to be viewed and can be downloaded from my website.

I am currently calling for expressions of interest for a local working group that is being established to review each item on the action plan. I am pleased to say that I have already received expressions of interest from a number of key local tourism operators and business leaders, and I am confident that we will end up with a strong working group which will be able to take this action plan and identify the opportunities that will benefit the Moreton Bay hinterland region.

In the longer term, I hope that we can put together a strategic plan for tourism in our region so that we can turn our region into one of South-East Queensland's must-visit destinations. But for now my focus is unashamedly on immediate action. We need to get some runs on the board, we need to build momentum and we need to stimulate growth in our region. I made a strong commitment prior to this year's election that I will do everything I can to bring more jobs into Pine Rivers, and I am committed to delivering on this commitment to my electorate. The tourism forum and subsequent action plan are part of that commitment, and I look forward to working with local business owners and community leaders to see our tourism industry strengthened in the coming months and years.