




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

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ADJOURNMENT

Queensland Day

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (6.53 pm): As we have heard from other members, today we celebrate Queensland Day and all that is great about not only this wonderful part of the world we live in but also the community that we have built over the past 150 years. We are indeed fortunate to live in a state which offers so many lifestyle choices from the reef to the rainforest, from sandy beaches to desert dunes and everything in between. Queenslanders have proven many times over the past century and a half that we are strong, resilient and innovative and well able to face the challenges of this new century.

I may be biased, but I believe that the Gold Coast, and particularly my electorate of Burleigh, offers the best of what the best state in Australia has to offer. This week we heard in the news that Sea World has been voted Australia's most popular tourist attraction and that Dreamworld, Movie World and Wet'n'Wild also featured in the top five attractions. It was no surprise to me, as a local, but I congratulate all our Gold Coast theme parks. They do a fantastic job in providing great venues for international and interstate visitors and locals alike.

I also congratulate Minister Stuckey on her work in this area, promoting Queensland and ensuring that our tourism industry is vibrant and relevant in the 21st century. Tourism is, after all, one of the four economic pillars of the Newman government and it is a major source of employment for many people living on the coast. Ben Pole from Gold Coast Tourism is quoted in the news this week as saying that the coast attracts almost 12 million visitors every year—that is more than half the population of Australia—making it Australia's holiday capital. The same article points out that international visitors to the coast increased by 10 per cent last year—more than double any other region in Queensland.

These kinds of results do not happen spontaneously and they do not happen in a vacuum. It is the work of the Premier and the Treasurer and, indeed, it is the work of this government as a whole, that creates the right environment for business and industry to grow and flourish. I congratulate the Treasurer on his third budget delivered this week. Our strong plan is ensuring that we are delivering on our commitments. This budget clearly outlines our plan to secure our finances by making the strongest and smartest choices to reduce debt so that we can create the right environment for business to flourish and so that we can sustainably invest in the schools, hospitals and infrastructure that Queenslanders need into the future. Now we just have to win the current State of Origin series!