



Speech By  
**Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 7 May 2015

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**United States of America, Trade Mission**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.37 am): Not only is my door open to local and Australian business at any time, my door is also wide open to the international business community wanting to expand existing Queensland industries or come to this state to set up shop. That is why today I can announce that in June I will be undertaking a trade mission to the United States to focus on attracting new industry to Queensland and strengthening those already strong ties Queensland has with business across America.

My trade mission will focus on the promotion and expansion of Queensland's capabilities in a broad range of fields, including natural sciences, social sciences, the arts, education, biotechnology, biofuels, agriculture, mining and energy and resources and increasing trade and investment into our great state.

The delegation of Queensland business leaders, scientists and representatives of our key universities that I will lead to the United States will have a strong focus on our established and emerging biotech industries, including biofuels. Following COAG recently, I met personally in Canberra with Australia's United States Ambassador, John Berry. I have also met in Brisbane with the US Consul General, Hugo Llorens, to discuss emerging opportunities with the United States, which will open new doors and frontiers for Queensland.

We are working with both the consul general and the ambassador to maximise the opportunities for Queensland. In June in Washington I will sign a new three-year memorandum of understanding between our state and the Smithsonian Institution, giving Queenslanders access to the knowledge, expertise and networks of the world's largest research and museum complex. In Philadelphia I will attend the important annual BIO International Convention, giving Queensland the opportunity to access the international biotechnology business and research community. Under Labor governments, at this event Queensland premiers have had an ongoing presence, which has informed and guided our critical and growing bio and sciences area. Labor will not vacate this important space. Through our Advance Queensland strategy, we will continue to work hard to maximise opportunities for the biotechnology and research sector.

In Philadelphia I will take the opportunity to meet with a wide range of business and government leaders in the fields of health and medical research, international trade and innovation. I will also meet with business and government leaders in Boston, including private equity and venture capital investment banking leaders and representatives of the Harvard Business School. I will also visit the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Boston's innovation district, a unique area of 1,000 acres currently being transformed into an innovation hub that has created 5,000 new jobs across 200 new companies in the technology, creative and green-tech industries.

My door is open to business. Unlike the previous government, which failed to attract new investment to Queensland and ignored important sectors such as biotechnology, my government is determined to bring the world to our great state.