



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 July 2015

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Queensland Performing Arts Centre**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.41 am): It is also my pleasure to announce today that the Queensland Performing Arts Centre is celebrating its 30th anniversary in style with another year of record attendance. It has just been revealed that 1.4 million people went to a show at QPAC in the past financial year—1.4 million people experiencing the joy of live performance.

QPAC has now welcomed more than 20 million visitors to about 26,000 performances in the past three decades. It had led the way in presenting outstanding performing arts and engaging with Queenslanders. We have seen the record run of *The Lion King* in the past year, and this weekend we will see the final performance of QPAC's latest hit *Dirty Dancing*. More highlights are in store when QPAC becomes the host venue for the Brisbane Festival in September and then welcomes Cameron Mackintosh's acclaimed new production of *Les Mis* in November.

I would like to send my congratulations to QPAC Chief Executive John Kotzas and his team for the wonderful programming and mix of events. QPAC's success helps to deliver direct cultural tourism benefits and economic returns to the state. My government values this, as you will see in this week's budget which delivered \$173 million in funding for the arts—\$28 million of that has been allocated over the next four years to provide upgrades to QPAC, particularly in the wake of its recent heritage listing.

My government's budget reflects our commitment to keeping Queensland as a leader in the arts on a local, national and international level. And QPAC's astonishing attendance figures are a reminder of how much Queenslanders appreciate the arts in this state.