




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Northern Queensland Economic Summit

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): My government is committed to developing the Northern Queensland region as an investment destination of choice. Last week in Cairns I, along with my cabinet colleagues and local MPs, had the pleasure of welcoming around 280 international and Australian delegates to the first ever Northern Queensland Economic Summit.

Delegates at the summit heard about my government's commitment to the Northern Queensland region through addresses from key government ministers. The summit also showcased a program of presentations highlighting the benefits of previous investments in Northern Queensland as well as future investment opportunities in key sectors including infrastructure, tourism, resources, agriculture and research and innovation.

The summit generated huge interest from international investors, with over 75 delegates representing international organisations, including international banks and investment houses and corporations, as well as consular and business organisations from countries including China, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia, Canada and numerous European Union countries. The summit provided an invaluable opportunity for our international investors to establish contacts with Australian businesses and key state and local government officials as well as local economic development agencies. As part of the summit program on 6 November, investors inspected potential investment sites in Northern Queensland, including the Cairns Airport, James Cook University, the FinFish aquaculture venture in Cairns, as well as the port of Townsville and the Townsville priority development area.

My government recognises that Northern Queensland is crucial to the strength and diversity of our state. Now is an exciting time for the region, particularly with the developing Northern Australia policy agenda being driven by the Commonwealth government. The Northern Queensland Economic Summit was our chance to let the world investment market know that Northern Queensland is not only a top tourism destination but also a strong and unique long-term investment opportunity.