




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Tourism Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.46 am): One in 10 Queenslanders relies on tourism directly or indirectly for their jobs. The tourism industry contributes \$23 billion to the state's economy. That is why my government, as promised, is doing what it can to grow Queensland tourism. Good news for Queensland tourism is good news for the Queensland economy. We know that securing more international flights to Queensland is crucial to growing tourism. More flights means more tourists booking into Queensland's hotels and restaurants. More flights means increased tourism spending in regional centres across our state. More flights means more jobs for Queenslanders. That is why my government has invested \$10 million over three years in the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund. Since parliament met last year my government has secured additional international flights with major airline carriers including Singapore Airlines, Hong Kong Airlines and just recently Air Canada. I thank the Minister for Tourism for driving these outcomes and I am sure that there is more to come.

These additional flights are expected to generate an extra 224,000 seats. Those seats translate to up to an additional \$134 million in overnight visitor expenditure in Queensland every year. Singapore Airlines is increasing its service to Brisbane, with the introduction of three new flights each week starting in May 2016. These flights will bring visitors not only from Singapore but also from the United Kingdom, China and India. Hong Kong Airlines will also be offering year-round services from Hong Kong to Cairns and the Gold Coast starting in April 2016. Overall, this new year-round service from Hong Kong to the Gold Coast and Cairns will open the door to as many as 30,000 extra seats each year. This will generate up to \$32 million in overnight visitor expenditure annually for our economy.

Starting in June 2016, Air Canada will be providing non-stop daily flights from Vancouver to Brisbane. I am very optimistic about the opportunity this presents for us to grow North America's access to Queensland. Through these additional international flights, my government will continue to grow Queensland's tourism industry and boost international travel to Queensland. We will continue to work with our partners including international airlines, Tourism Australia, regional tourism organisations and major airports to attract more incoming flights from major global cities to Queensland.