




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Tourism Industry; Exports

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.02 pm): This morning I had the pleasure to join the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and the tourism minister to announce a market-led proposal to establish a \$100 million aquarium at the South Bank precinct. This is an exciting proposal for Brisbane and an exciting opportunity for more jobs in our booming tourism sector. The announcement coincides with news that more Australians are choosing to come to Queensland than ever before. In 2015, 20.1 million domestic travellers came to Queensland and spent \$14.5 billion here. We are getting more tourists and they are spending more. Earlier this month we confirmed more than 2.3 million international travellers touched down in Queensland in 2015. This represents an increase of nine per cent on the previous 12 months.

My government, through the Minister for Tourism, has been actively attracting additional international flights into Queensland—Cairns, Brisbane and the Gold Coast. As we welcome more tourists coming to Queensland, we are also enjoying record exports. Queensland exports increased by \$5.6 billion to almost \$50 billion last year. The value of Queensland's overseas merchandise exports rose by 12 per cent to a four-year high of almost \$49.7 billion in 2015. This result was driven by the new LNG industry and excellent results from Queensland's rural sector. This is the best result for Queensland since 2011. This is a job-winning equation for Queensland—more tourists are coming and more exports are going. My government is determined to create new jobs. We are determined to attract new investment, establish new industries, open new markets and welcome many more visitors to our great state of Queensland.