




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

China and Hong Kong, Trade Mission

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (10.04 am): I have just returned from China and Hong Kong selling our state to the world's second largest economy and I have good news for Queensland. The message from the business community is clear: business and investment leaders, tourism operators, health providers, education providers, innovation leaders, airlines and senior government officials in China and Hong Kong like what Queensland has to offer. From our international reputation as a top tourist destination and an innovation hub to investment opportunities and our clean and green agricultural produce, Queensland is well and truly on the map.

In the more than 30 meetings I attended with people like the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Mr Leung Chun-ying; the Governor of the 90 million strong Sichuan Province, Mr Yin Lee; and the Vice President of Sichuan Airlines, Mr Shi Jian, it was uncommon for our beaches, our climate and the Great Barrier Reef to go without mention. In Hong Kong the chief executive and other senior officials offered to showcase Queensland services and produce to the more than 40 million Chinese consumers who visit Hong Kong each year. We know that about one million visitors from China enter Australia each year and about 400,000 of those experience Queensland. We want that number to grow.

Importantly, the recent China-Australia Free Trade Agreement and the fact that the Chinese middle class is expected to reach 800 million people over the next decade opens enormous opportunities for Queensland. Those opportunities are not just in tourism but also in investment, health care, agribusiness, innovation and other sectors. Our strong relationships mean we can benefit if we seize the opportunities presented to us. Importantly, I signed MOUs for innovation exchanges and witnessed MOUs for exporting Queensland's vocational expertise in business training and teacher training through TAFE Queensland.

We have seen the start of interesting discussions around tourism and not only attracting airlines to fly to Queensland but also opportunities for return passengers. The launch of a new tourism campaign with China Southern Airlines in Shanghai means airlines will be more encouraged to fly to Queensland knowing they will have passengers to fill their planes on the way back.

We have also started processes around enabling more investment in Queensland from powerhouses such as China. With a population of over a billion people, China is a market we cannot afford to ignore. That is why during the trade mission we strengthened existing relationships and established new ones. I am confident that there is more good news on the horizon from these new relationships. Maintaining these strong relationships and building new ones will mean more investment for Queensland and more investment for Queensland means more jobs for Queenslanders.