



Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Thor: Ragnarok

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.36 pm): Queensland has a proven track record as Australia's film destination of choice for domestic and international producers. It is no secret that Queensland is taking the lead in securing top international productions, with Marvel's *Thor: Ragnarok* filming here right now. *Thor*, starring Chris Hemsworth, Tom Hiddleston, Sir Anthony Hopkins, Jeff Goldblum, Cate Blanchett and Mark Ruffalo, is the first production to film at the new superstage at Village Roadshow Studios, constructed with investment from my government. This new stage, which is the largest in the Southern Hemisphere, demonstrates Queensland's commitment to provide world-class facilities for the local and international film and television industry to create jobs and drive economic benefit for the long term. I am proud of these achievements and am especially encouraged that key industry players also recognise our achievements.

I am also pleased to advise the House that Brisbane will be home to some Hollywood experiences next week when filming of *Thor* moves from the Gold Coast to the streets of the Brisbane CBD, and Hollywood's A-listers will be here amongst each and every one of us.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. As Premier, I am excited that when *Thor* is released on the big screen we will all be proud that our state will feature heavily in this blockbuster. Walt Disney Studios executive Mary Ann Hughes, who helped bring the filming of *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales* to Queensland, continues to sing our praises. Her encouragement and endorsement to colleagues at Marvel Studios assisted to seal the deal to film *Thor* in Queensland. *Thor* is expected to spend more than \$100 million in Queensland and has already employed at least 1,200 Queenslanders in a range of capacities. *Thor* is also bringing the world's attention to Queensland with the newly launched *Thor: Ragnarok* Facebook page already attracting more than 13 million followers. My government recognises that investing in blockbuster productions delivers significant economic and tourism benefits for Queensland.