



Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

International Tourism

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.08 pm): I have good news for Queensland. The number of international tourists visiting Queensland continues to grow. In the 12 months to June this year, the number of international visitors to Queensland grew by 11 per cent to 2.5 million visitors, generating \$5.1 billion. Brisbane and the Gold Coast had the largest international visitation numbers on record, reaching 1.17 million and 984,000 visitors respectively. Overnight visitor expenditure on the Gold Coast reached a record \$1.3 billion and the Sunshine Coast also hit historic highs of \$245 million.

We have seen growth in the Asian markets of China, Japan, Taiwan and Korea and the Western markets of Germany, the USA and New Zealand. I am pleased to see that the growth in visitor numbers from China has increased by 26 per cent and from Japan by 19 per cent.

The Connecting to Asia Forum that we held in Cairns last week attracted more than 300 industry leaders. This was further testament to the excitement and growth of our tourism industry. The Minister for Tourism will provide more details this afternoon. This growth is testament to the work our government is doing, including the additional international flights we have attracted to Queensland.