




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Tourism Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.04 pm): Queensland is the place to be. Our tourism sector is firing up, which means jobs and economic activity across the entire state. We recently held our Connecting to Asia forum in Cairns, and in late October we will be hosting the DestinationQ conference in Mackay. By working together, we can maximise our tourism opportunities, attracting visitors domestically and internationally. The evidence shows that our collective approach is already working.

Today I joined the Minister for Tourism and the Attorney-General, as the minister responsible for training, to announce the latest tourism data. It is very good news for Queensland. Tourism Research Australia data revealed \$950 million extra had been spent by domestic travellers in the Sunshine State over the past year. Australian visitors spent \$14.6 billion in Queensland over the past year. That is an increase in expenditure of seven per cent on the previous year or almost \$1 billion.

Across holiday-makers, people visiting friends and family, and business travellers, we saw 20 million visitors come to Queensland. For a population of fewer than 4.7 million, we are proud to welcome so many visitors to our state. There were 35 million holiday nights spent in Queensland, and to cater for those visitors we need to upskill our workforce. It is forecast that we will need 10,500 more hospitality workers by 2020, which is why the programs run in our TAFE system are so crucial to the tourism industry. Our message that Queensland is a fantastic destination for all types of international and domestic travellers is clearly working and it is important that we continue to deliver that message.

That is why we are investing in programs like the Queensland Asia Tourism Strategy to tap into big Asian markets as well as encouraging people to holiday at home right here in Queensland. Tourists are coming into Queensland by planes, trains and automobiles, but they are also coming by ship. A record 329 cruise ships visited Queensland in 2015-16. That is a 20 per cent increase and more ships than any other state. Passenger numbers have already increased by more than 100,000 on the previous year to 776,000, contributing more than \$260 million to the Queensland economy.

The Port of Brisbane had a 22 per cent increase with 148 calls. Cairns received 50 cruise ship visits, while the Whitsundays had 43; Moreton Island, 33; Port Douglas, 29; Mooloolaba and Thursday Island, seven; Gladstone, four; Cooktown and Townsville, three; and the Fraser Coast, two. Many of our ports will double the number of cruise ship arrivals over the next 12 months. I congratulate the Minister for Tourism for working so hard to attract visitors to Queensland. After all, it is good for Queensland jobs, for Queensland businesses and for Queensland's economy.