



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2016

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Whitsundays, Community Cabinet**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.07 pm): My government is committed to governing for all of Queensland. We have made it a priority to listen to Queenslanders and reflect their views in our decision-making. Prior to the state budget, our Working Queensland Cabinet Committee toured the regions. As a result, our budget had a strong focus on infrastructure and employment in regional Queensland. Almost half of the \$10.7 billion Capital Works Program is committed to the regions and our \$100 million Back to Work program is dedicated to support employers taking on people who are out of work.

The tourism figures I just mentioned showed tremendous growth in tourism in Northern Queensland including the Whitsundays. In that part of Queensland over the last financial year the number of visitors is up 30.6 per cent, with 2.2 million nights and expenditure of more than half a billion dollars. Today I have even more good news for the people of the Whitsundays. I can announce that my cabinet will meet in the Whitsundays region on 23 and 24 October. A community forum will be held on the 23rd and cabinet will meet the following day. The community forum will be held at Proserpine State High School. I look forward to visiting the school and inspecting the work done on behalf of the students and the school community.

Today I have spoken to the Whitsunday mayor, Andrew Willcox, and I look forward to meeting with him and his colleagues about the challenges and opportunities facing the region. He is very excited that the cabinet is coming to the Whitsundays. Community cabinet gives Queensland communities a chance to speak directly with me and ministers and raise issues that really matter to them. This community cabinet meeting will follow the earlier meetings we have held in Townsville, Rockhampton, the Brisbane southern suburbs, Bundaberg, Gladstone, northern parts of Brisbane, the Gold Coast and the Royal Queensland Show. My ministers have had almost 800 deputations at our community cabinet meetings to date. We look forward to meeting with residents from across the Whitsundays region.