



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2016

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Tourism Industry**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.43 am): My government has more great news for Queensland tourism. Hong Kong Airlines will fly two additional services into the Gold Coast and Cairns from December, delivering an extra \$70 million in overnight visitor expenditure to Queensland. These extra flights will boost the highly successful route between Hong Kong, the Gold Coast and Cairns, increasing the number of inbound flights from three to five per week. These additional weekly services have the potential to bring an extra 30,000 inbound passengers and, combined with the existing service, deliver 59,000 seats each year.

The additional flights were secured through the government's Attracting Aviation Investment Fund. I commend the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Events Queensland for her leadership in this area and the work of Tourism and Events Queensland to maximise the benefits from this fund. These additional flights reinforce the commitment we made in our budget in June for the \$33.5 million Advance Queensland: Connecting with Asia strategy. We know that increasing our airline capacity is key to growing tourism in this state. Already we have secured more than 600,000 extra seats with the potential to bring an extra \$480 million in tourism expenditure into the economy. These flights will deliver more tourism jobs for Queensland. These flights will help achieve the goal of our Queensland Asia Tourism Strategy 2016-2025 to deliver an increase in overnight visitor expenditure from Asian markets to \$6.8 billion and support up to 30,000 additional jobs by 2025.

These extra flights came about through our partnership with Gold Coast Tourism, Cairns Airport, Tourism Tropical North Queensland and Gold Coast Airport. My government works in partnership with business and industry and tourism is an excellent example of the cooperative and partnership approach of this government. In August in Cairns we hosted the very successful Connecting to Asia Forum and we will hold the DestinationQ forum in Mackay on 25 October. We are looking forward to going to Mackay. We are expecting up to 400 tourism industry leaders will join my ministers and key stakeholders at the annual tourism forum.