



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Dutch Royal Visit**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.05 pm): I am pleased to inform the House that Brisbane has been included in the upcoming visit to Australia by His Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Majesty Queen Maxima. The Dutch royal couple will arrive in Brisbane on the night of 3 November to rest before undertaking a busy round of official engagements the next day. They will be in Australia for just five days as part of year-long celebrations marking the 400th anniversary of a Dutch explorer arriving off the Western Australian coast.

I, along with the thousands of Queenslanders of Dutch descent, are delighted the king and queen will stop over in Brisbane. The royal couple will be accompanied by a big international media contingent and their visit offers us another opportunity to showcase our relaxed lifestyle and attractions worldwide. Their Brisbane itinerary begins with a morning visit to the Queensland University of Technology, followed by a cruise on the Brisbane River, before viewing modern Australian and Aboriginal art at the Gallery of Modern Art and then meeting Australians of Dutch descent at City Hall.

At QUT the Deputy Premier and I will join them as they attend a seminar on 'Smart living with water' organised by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. King Willem-Alexander, a former chair of the United Nations water and sanitation board, has a keen interest in international water issues and flood mitigation. The royal couple are also keen to focus on confirming and expanding the Netherlands' longstanding and bilateral ties with Queensland and Australia.

This is the second visit to our state by members of Europe's popular royal families in under 12 months. In December last year the Danish royals Crown Prince Frederick and Princess Mary enjoyed a relaxed beach and shopping holiday with their children on the Gold Coast which attracted worldwide media coverage. The Dutch royals' visit to Brisbane promises the same. This is a great honour for our state, and I am sure we all look forward to welcoming the Royal Family here next month.

**Mr Bleijie:** I'll go in Jackie's place.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You want an invite, do you? Maybe if you are good. We will have to behave. There is the test.