



Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

ASEAN-Australia Leaders' Summit

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.02 pm): Queensland's engagement with the rest of the world is vital to the future jobs and prosperity of our state. This morning, the Deputy Premier launched our government's 10-year International Education and Training Strategy to Advance Queensland. Yesterday, the Minister for Tourism and the Minister for Training and Skills highlighted the importance of the double-digit growth in international tourists coming to Queensland. Tourism, education and training are major export industries for Queensland. As an export state, we earned \$47 billion over the last 12 months selling our produce and products overseas.

My government is determined to continue to grow our exports, our tourism and our international education. Therefore, I commend the Prime Minister's recent proposal for a special ASEAN-Australia leaders' summit to be held in Australia in 2018. I can advise the House that I have now written to the Prime Minister to propose that Queensland host the ASEAN-Australia summit in 2018. The members of ASEAN—the Association of South-East Asian Nations—include Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. By hosting this summit and welcoming these leaders to Queensland, we can deepen our partnership with these countries.

ASEAN countries are a growing market for our exports, goods and services. Last financial year, Queensland merchandise exports to these countries increased to \$3.5 billion. Almost 160,000 tourists from these countries travelled to Queensland in 2014-15 and 12,000 students from these countries studied in Queensland in 2015.

Queensland has the experience to host international government meetings, with the successful G20 world leaders' summit in 2014, the Pacific Islands Forum in 2009 and the APEC Finance Ministers Meeting in 2007. As Premier, I am offering Queensland to host this summit and showcase our state to the leaders of our South-East Asian partners.