



Speech By  
**Hon. Kate Jones**


**MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Tourism and Events**

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (9.47 am): Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines! Later this month I will be joining James Warburton, the CEO of the Supercars team, and more than 200,000 racing fans at the Gold Coast 600. Mr Speaker, you can come too. We have secured another three-year deal with Supercars off the back of our record four-year tourism and events funding guarantee.

**Mr Cripps** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** The member for Hinchinbrook can come too. The Supercars are worth more than \$40 million to our economy and continue to drive more visitors to the Gold Coast, including my good friends from the Far North. It is one of our many major events achieving success for Queensland.

The Gold Coast Airport Marathon—maybe the member will do the Gold Coast Airport Marathon?—has proven a tourism winner, smashing records for economic impact, visitor nights and the highest number of international competitors in history. That has quietened him down. This year's GCAM delivered a record \$24 million for the Gold Coast economy, 80,000 visitor nights and close to 3,500 international entries—the highest number in the event's history.

We also saw great results in tropical North Queensland, with the Cairns Airport Adventure Festival. The nine-day festival included the Ironman Asia-Pacific Championship for the first time, which helped attract more visitors from interstate and overseas than ever before. This event hosted 1,500 interstate and 1,300 international competitors and spectators, injecting more than \$8 million into the Cairns economy.

The Big Red Bash was another success, with more than 7,000 people flocking to enjoy a truly unique Queensland experience in Birdsville in the electorate of the honourable member for Mount Isa and spending more than \$6 million in outback Queensland. I congratulate the event organisers of the Big Red Bash because it was named the country's favourite event at the Australian Event Awards. Blues on Broadbeach is another music event delivering record visitors—close to 100,000 visitor nights—and an economic boost of around \$20 million to the Gold Coast economy. The Vision Splendid Outback Film Festival in Winton brings Hollywood to the outback. Close to 700 visitors travelled to Winton to experience this great outback event.

These great results are helping to grow tourism right across the state and support thousands of tourism jobs. I congratulate Leanne Coddington and the team at Tourism and Events Queensland, event organisers, volunteers and the communities for their outstanding efforts in delivering these great events for Queensland.