



Speech By  
**Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe**


**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Gold Coast Commonwealth Games**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (2.17 pm): I advise the House that today marks 777 days until the Commonwealth Games open on Queensland's Gold Coast. This morning I was pleased to welcome the news that NEP Australia will be the broadcaster that beams the Commonwealth Games to the world. This Australian based company has secured the largest contract of the games, a contract to broadcast Queensland and the Gold Coast to an audience of 1.5 billion people worldwide. This decision will mean 1,200 jobs here in Queensland. This announcement is a major boost for Queensland's creative industries and will support talented broadcasters and technicians across the state. Most importantly, this announcement is accompanied by the commitment from NEP Australia that they will provide training for 200 local college and university students in the lead-up to the games and give them real life exposure to a major international event.

This investment in our state's students will be a tremendous legacy from the games and will help to build the next generation of broadcast talent in our state. As the father of a budding broadcasting student myself, I know the joy that this training commitment will deliver for students across Queensland. This is the best of the games spirit—connecting Queensland to the world and leaving lasting benefits for Queenslanders. This is exactly what these games will be about.

The Commonwealth Games is the largest sporting event to be staged in Australia this decade, injecting more than \$2 billion into Queensland's economy and supporting up to 30,000 jobs. NEP Australia will be responsible for filming and broadcasting high-definition television coverage to each of the individual rights holding broadcasts, which for Australia is Channel 7. They will be capturing all of the highs and the sporting memories across the 11 days of the Commonwealth Games.

I am advised that they will lay over 100 kilometres of cable and deploy some 350 cameras and produce over 1,100 hours of live television, radio and digital coverage transmitted via some 25 outside broadcast vehicles and control rooms. NEP Australia are in the process of establishing an office in Bundall on the Gold Coast and will also manage the design, installation and operation of the international broadcast centre. This is another great achievement in advance of the Commonwealth Games and as we get closer to it—there is little more than two years to go.

Today's announcement builds on the significant investments the government is making ahead of the games and there can be no greater sign of our commitment to the games and the coast than the delivery of stage 2 of light rail for the Gold Coast. As NEP Australia will be beaming Queensland to the world, Gold Coast light rail will be moving the world to the coast. It is a terrific achievement from the Palaszczuk government.

I am getting on with the job of delivering in this portfolio. This government is getting on with the job of delivering. I look forward to announcing even more jobs and opportunities as we look forward—770 days out from the Commonwealth Games in 2018.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the Minister for Health, I acknowledge and welcome to the public gallery officers of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office: director-general Ken Lai, deputy director-general Francis Spong and director Brian Jing. Welcome to parliament.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!