




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Gold Coast

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (2.50 pm): It is no thanks to the member for Surfers Paradise and his nay-saying and negativity that the Gold Coast is booming. Queenslanders, interstate visitors and people from across the world are visiting that great city. They are moving in droves to the coast. We see that property values are forecast to skyrocket.

To cater for this expansion the Palaszczuk government is putting a huge level of investment in and focus on the Gold Coast and its surrounds. It was great to hear the Premier announce today that the community cabinet will go to the Gold Coast in May. We will be in Southport and listening to Gold Coasters. There will be a lot of experience of them not being heard by those members opposite who represent the Gold Coast. Certainly a lot of people across the whole of Queensland, including on the Gold Coast, were not listened to by the previous government.

The opportunities for and focus on the Gold Coast is not just housing and tourism. As a government, we are focused on diversifying the economy. The region is becoming a centre for research, a hub for the knowledge economy and a home for innovation. The government is investing in essential services such as health, education and research.

That is why we are putting in \$10.2 million in extra funding over the next two years to reduce outpatient wait times for Gold Coasters. This will ensure that some 6,700 extra patients will be given outpatient appointments and surgery before 30 June next year. Some \$50 million has been pledged for a new school in Coomera. It is set to open in 2020. We have unveiled the master plan for the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct, which will support more than 20,000 jobs and help future proof the Gold Coast economy. The government has changed the way the Gold Coast now connects with investment in Gold Coast Light Rail stage 1 and now stage 2.

This level of investment will see the region transform for the better. The Gold Coast has become more than just Australia's playground. The Palaszczuk government will be up to the challenge of making sensible investment and forward-planning decisions to ensure that we drive home the advantage that that great region has. We will not only develop as a result of the great opportunity of the former Labor government initiative of hosting the 2018 Commonwealth Games but also develop a great platform and great infrastructure to support the whole community.

Labor and the Palaszczuk government are doing the best job to deliver and enhance the Gold Coast and the Gold Coast's future. I encourage all honourable members to get down to the coast and enjoy some of the great fruits of the infrastructure that this government delivered and make sure they have a great time.