




Speech By
Peter Russo

MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Taiwan, Trade

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (2.45 pm): As everybody in this House knows, my electorate has a significant number of people who have migrated from Taiwan and contribute to the state economy. The good news is that, even with the alteration to the boundaries, my involvement with the Taiwanese community will still continue. I want to give the House information on how Queensland has benefited by its development of closer economic ties with Taiwan. Queensland first established a trade office in Taipei nearly 20 years ago, and it is an office that I have had the privilege of visiting on at least two occasions on my visits to Taiwan. The latest Brisbane Airport Corporation report shows a record number of travellers have passed through Brisbane Airport, with total passenger numbers increasing by approximately two per cent. That means that 447,400 people more have passed through Brisbane's international airport. Four of the top 5 growth markets for Brisbane this year come from North Asia with Japan, China, Korea and Taiwan being the ones of most note.

Taiwan is one of the major sources of Queensland's fastest growing tourism market. According to the latest Trade & Investment Queensland report, Taiwanese visitors to Queensland have increased by 21.6 per cent or 11,610 from 53,800 in 2014-15 to 65,410 tourists in 2015-16, which is approximately 47 per cent out of the total number of 139,579 Taiwanese visitors to Australia in the same year period. Currently there are two Taiwanese national carriers—China Airlines and EVA Air—operating direct flights between Brisbane and Taiwan. Since 2016, both airlines have doubled their flights to five times a week and will bring 22,800 more Taiwanese visitors to Queensland each year. Economically, Taiwan and Queensland are much closer than many would expect. Taiwan is Queensland's sixth largest trading partner and its sixth largest export market in 2016. Queensland exports to Taiwan were valued at \$1,685.9 million, representing 3.5 per cent of Queensland's total merchandise exports.