




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Festival 2018

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.02 am): It gives me great pleasure to update the House on Festival 2018, the Commonwealth Games arts and cultural festival that next month will bring 12 days of exciting performances to not just the Gold Coast but also Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane.

Festival 2018 will feature more than 3,500 performers participating in more than 500 events, leaving a lasting legacy. The event will see the arts take its place alongside sports as a major drawcard for visitors in a program spanning theatre, music, visual arts, dance, circus and more. Queensland talent will join world-class artists from across Australia and all parts of the globe, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories firmly in the spotlight. Festival 2018 will create a palpable energy, telling our unique Queensland stories and further enhancing our global reputation as a world-class destination.

Mr Speaker, you will be interested to know that in Cairns outdoor concerts featuring huge names such as Kate Miller-Heidke, the Cat Empire and Amy Shark will delight music lovers when they play the Main Stage at the Cairns Esplanade. The member for Townsville will be pleased to know that Strand Park is hosting the Uncontained Festival, featuring a towering art installation of 30 shipping containers and a hub for street art, live music and a broadcast of the games. In Brisbane, King George Square will host One million Stars to End Violence, an inspirational community project by the Museum of Brisbane featuring woven stars contributed by weavers across the world. At the Brisbane Powerhouse, the WOW—Women of the World festival 2018 will celebrate achievements, encourage dialogue and identify ways to support women and girls to overcome barriers and achieve their full potential.

Of course, the Gold Coast will be the centre of much activity, including the world premiere of the Festival 2018 commissioned *Intertwined*. Led by Grace Lillian Lee and featuring 11 collections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, it celebrates art, fashion, movement and song. The annual Gold Coast Bleach* Festival 2018 will be in full swing with *The Spirit of Churaki*, an epic music production inspired by the story of an Aboriginal man heralded as the Gold Coast's first surf lifesaver.

Festival 2018, funded by the Queensland government in partnership with the City of Gold Coast, Brisbane City Council, Townsville City Council, Cairns Regional Council and the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation, is truly a major achievement. By bringing Festival 2018 to the regions, the Palaszczuk government is demonstrating our commitment to the people of regional Queensland. I encourage all Queenslanders from right across the state to join in the celebrations.