




Speech By
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ADJOURNMENT

Australian Tourism Exchange

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (7.03 pm): It is an exciting time for the tourism industry, not just in Cairns and across the region but also across Queensland and Australia. Next week Australia's largest annual travel and tourism business-to-business event, the Australian Tourism Exchange, will be underway. This event brings together Australian tourism businesses and tourism wholesalers and retailers from around the world through a combination of scheduled business appointments and networking events. It also provides international travel buyers with the opportunity to experience Australia's tourism offerings firsthand through pre and post event familiarisations.

Around 1,500 Australian seller delegates from approximately 550 companies will be selling their products to 650 international buyers from 30 countries. In addition to this, we will also have 70 international and Australian media attending this global event. This event is organised by Tourism Australia. I note that in the federal budget they did not get anything more than what they usually get, which is a little disappointing as they make over a billion dollars from the passenger movement tax. The event is held in partnership with the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre where ATE is being held this year. I am proud to say that our regional tourism body, Tourism Tropical North Queensland, will be in attendance, along with a large number of tourism products from the Cairns region. Working closely with Tourism and Events Queensland, producers from our region will be looking at increasing their exposure in international wholesale brochures and websites.

I commend Pip Close and the team at Tourism Tropical North Queensland who are for the first time taking several operators to ATE who are promoting the region's Indigenous experiences with a sole booth this year. This is the first time TTNQ has had a push of this nature around Indigenous tourism and profiling at ATE will help this third pillar in their marketing efforts. We know that the demand for Indigenous tourism experiences across the north continues to grow, in particular with what we refer to as our traditional long-haul markets.

It is reassuring that the Palaszczuk government is contributing to our region's tourism sector with a \$178 million expansion and upgrade of the Cairns Convention Centre starting in May of next year and \$127 million for our port expansion, which will enable larger cruise ships to come into our city—great for restaurants, hotels and retail businesses. In addition to that we have \$48 million in the attracting Asia aviation fund. There is a lot being done. We have investment in scoping documents for the Wangetti Trial and in scoping documents for a refrigerated export facility at Cairns airport. I wish each and every one of the tourism operators in my part of the world—Cairns and our region—all the best. I wish them a successful and a very happy and joyful ATE. Happy days!