




Speech By
Adrian Tantari

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

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ADJOURNMENT

Hervey Bay Electorate, Jetstar Flights

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (6.12 pm): I take this opportunity to inform the House that because of the Palaszczuk Labor government's strong health response, which has kept those in the Hervey Bay electorate safe, and its strong regional economic recovery plan, the people of the Hervey Bay electorate are moving towards a faster return to work and normalcy. This situation has only come about because the Palaszczuk Labor government has had a strong plan, and it has stuck to it.

One of the outcomes from this strong recovery has been the return of flights from Sydney to Hervey Bay, announced by the Minister for Tourism Industry Development this week. This is a great outcome that is as a result of the Palaszczuk government's Aviation Recovery Fund, a great outcome from a forward-thinking government. Minister Hinchliffe along with the Minister for Small Business, Minister Farmer, recently spent time on the ground in Hervey Bay taking advice from our local small businesses and tourism sector leaders about their needs and their aspirations. The ministers took on board their comments and have listened to the local people and they have responded.

Let us not underestimate what we are talking about here. Hervey Bay, through the work of the Palaszczuk Labor government and in conjunction with the Fraser Coast Regional Council, has once again been able to secure direct flights from Australia's largest city directly into Hervey Bay. This is a massive bonus for our regional city—for our tourism, for our small business owners and for the Hervey Bay community—at a time when it is most needed. This outcome is estimated to stimulate our local economy to the tune of around \$8 million annually and create a further 67 jobs. Hervey Bay will be exposed to the biggest potential Australian market with an estimated 50,000 people per annum moving between the two cities. Given the safe health response to COVID on top of the booming drive market, this outcome means one thing, and that is jobs, jobs and more jobs.

The other great aspect of this decision by Jetstar is that it once again gives residents of Hervey Bay who have family and friends in Sydney access to Sydney. That is not all: it allows the volumes of people from around Australia who are champing at the bit to come and participate in the best whale watch experience, may I say, bar none in the world today, to come to Hervey Bay. It is and continues to be one of the major attractions to experience in the Hervey Bay region, along with many other worthwhile ventures.

The further knock-on effects of this outcome will no doubt be welcomed across the Fraser Coast region. I am sure the member for Maryborough will acknowledge that these flights are good for his electorate of Maryborough as well. I also acknowledge and thank the council for the work they have done, in particular its outstanding leader, Mayor George Seymour, who has clearly shown what can be achieved when state and local governments work together in the best interest of our community, instead of being negative at every turn like the federal member for Hinkler. The mayor and I will certainly be working together to knock Cairns off its No. 1 wotif.com spot in the Aussie Town of the Year stakes next year.

By negotiating this outcome and delivering for the people of Hervey Bay, the Palaszczuk Labor government is showing the rest of Australia and the world that Queensland is the place to be. It is good to go and we are keeping the Hervey Bay electorate safe and strong.