



Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**


**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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## MOTION

### JobKeeper

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (3.41 pm): Last week I had the pleasure of hosting the Premier, the tourism minister and the assistant tourism minister in my electorate when we held a tourism industry round table in Port Douglas. We heard firsthand from the industry how drastic the federal government's decision to end JobKeeper this Sunday will be on the tourism sector. The latest estimates are that in Tropical North Queensland there are more than 15,000 employees and nearly 5,000 businesses relying on JobKeeper. Tourism Tropical North Queensland estimates that, with JobKeeper finishing on Sunday, 3,500 people are likely to lose their jobs immediately. That is why it was so important for the Premier, the tourism minister and the assistant minister to be on the ground listening to the concerns of operators and working collaboratively on solutions, unlike the federal government Treasurer who recently visited Cairns and arrived empty-handed.

The assistant minister has already outlined the Palaszczuk government's more than \$790 million investment in delivered and planned economic recovery and support for the tourism and events sector. One of those measures, the Action Plan for Tourism Recovery, will play an important role in setting the strategic scene for the long-term recovery of the Queensland tourism industry. As vaccines roll out around the world, now is the time to look ahead and plan the next phase of recovery for Queensland's tourism industry. That is why the Palaszczuk government has established an industry reference panel. The panel will work with industry to deliver an action plan for tourism recovery. The plan will identify the important next steps we must take to position the industry for success after COVID-19, both in the interim and longer term. The esteemed panel includes highly experienced tourism industry leaders Liz Savage, Andrew McEvoy and Brett Godfrey.

The long-term strategic vision complements the action the Palaszczuk Labor government is taking right now to support tourism operators across the state. In recent weeks we have launched short-term relief measures including the Cairns Holiday Dollars program as well as the Great Barrier Reef Education Experience Program. The plan is about what comes next and the actions the industry will need to take to position Queensland for success as the COVID-19 situation continues to change. The global travel industry will be different because of COVID-19 and Queensland's tourism industry will need to be different as a result. In contrast, the federal government has abandoned the 15,000 people in Tropical North Queensland currently relying on JobKeeper.