



Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Tourism Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.32 am): This weekend marks another key step towards rebuilding Queensland's international tourism market after the pandemic. From Sunday, the world's third largest carrier, United Airlines, will add Queensland to its global network—for the first time flying direct from San Francisco to Brisbane three times a week. It will be the first new transpacific route by a US airline since the pandemic began. It is not just any carrier: United has more than 100 million loyalty members and is the largest and longest serving US airline in the Australian market.

Before the pandemic, in 2019, 236,000 Americans came here each year—our third biggest market—spending over \$419 million. The flights from San Francisco are expected to bring 40,000 Americans a year, bringing \$27 million a year in economic benefits and supporting hundreds if not thousands of jobs. This is a massive boost to our tourism industry and is just one example of how we are helping operators who were hard hit by COVID-19.

This is all part of our government's landmark \$200 million Attracting Aviation Investment Fund to give our airports the certainty to fast-track direct international flights—because my government recognises how critical they are to Queensland's ongoing tourism and economic recovery. More direct flights means more visitor spending, a stronger economy, more air freight capacity to export and more good, secure jobs for Queenslanders. The Attracting Aviation Investment Fund comes on top of \$66.4 million in this year's state budget to support the tourism sector's recovery and over \$1.1 billion in assistance during the pandemic. This is proof that our government will always back our tourism operators and airlines to restore and grow the industry.

I also look forward to joining the Minister for Tourism and the Deputy Premier to attend the annual DestinationQ next week on the Gold Coast to meet and speak directly with stakeholders. I will be attending an investor breakfast with key tourism infrastructure investors and government decision-makers to support tangible investment outcomes and encourage further investment. Then I will be attending the official opening, including more than 900 key tourism stakeholders from across the state, at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre to discuss our journey to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and how we can work together to build on Queensland's amazing strengths. The assistant minister will be there as well.