



Speech By
Hon. Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Tourism Industry

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.35 pm): I am pleased to update the House on the Crisafulli government's 20-year tourism plan as part of delivering on our 100-day action plan. We said we would deliver a 20-year tourism plan that will capitalise on tourism opportunities from the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I am pleased to advise that this is already well underway. With a project team established to coordinate and drive the delivery of the strategy, our discussion paper, consultation process and government arrangements are all on track. We will begin—indeed, I will begin—the statewide roadshow in Mount Isa next week where the inaugural round table will be held. We want Queensland tourism stakeholders to have their say. We need to hear firsthand about what they need from us to ensure that one of our state's biggest industries thrives.

The newly established Tourism Cabinet Committee, which has also already met, will oversee and drive the development and delivery of the strategy in partnership with industry. Creating and marketing new tourism products and prioritising the industry's future is essential for its growth. Sustainable ecotourism ventures such as the Whitsunday Skyway and Wangetti Trail in Far North Queensland are key examples of what we will strive to achieve. Last month the Premier and I spoke to more than 1,000 delegates at a DestinationQ event, and they are with us. After 10 years of stalling, delays and disinterest from the previous government Queensland's tourism sector is ready to shine.

Let me be very clear: tourism is a vital economic driver throughout the state. We have more than 64,000 tourism related businesses employing 260,000 people. As Minister for the Environment and Tourism, I am excited about the unparalleled opportunities being offered through the combination of these two portfolios. I am confident that by delivering this plan we will make the best use of the green and gold runway being laid out in the lead-up to the Olympics and Paralympics in 2032. We want them to come for the sport and we want them to stay for the state—the greatest state in Australia.