



Speech By  
**Hon. Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 December 2024

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Attracting Aviation Investment Fund; Tourism Industry**

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.15 pm): I am pleased to update the House on some major wins for Queensland from our Attracting Aviation Investment Fund. We are increasing our connections to the world, helping draw visitors to Queensland and sending our magnificent exports offshore quickly and efficiently.

Last Thursday night I had the pleasure of attending the Delta Air Lines launch party in South Brisbane hosted by AmCham, Australia's largest international business organisation, as well as the Brisbane Airport Corporation and Delta itself ahead of the first Delta flight from Los Angeles to Brisbane which landed the following Friday morning. The Crisafulli government's support of this partnership is expected to deliver up to \$61 million in overnight visitor expenditure per year and up to 80,000 inbound international seats. That is 80,000 visitors to Queensland who are ready to see and enjoy all that our great state has to offer. It also offers millions of square metres of cargo space that are ready for Queensland's fruit, veggies, seafood and meat, enabling delivery to the west coast of the United States of America in just over 13 hours.

A short time ago I came in from the Speaker's Green, where we also announced the commencement of Virgin Australia services between Doha and Brisbane starting on 18 June 2025. Doha is one of the world's biggest aviation hubs and connects Brisbane to more than 100 destinations. That is incredibly appealing to United Kingdom and European visitors, who will now be able to get to Australia with just one stop. It also connects Queensland tourists with not only the UK and Europe but also the Middle East and Africa. The Crisafulli government's partnership with Virgin is expected to bring up to \$91 million in overnight visitor spending each year and deliver more than 129,000 inbound seats per year over two years. That is 129,000 visitors touching down in Brisbane who are ready to see Queensland. From Cairns to Currumbin, we have so much to offer and there is plenty more to come. As I said, there is all that cargo space on returning flights that is ready for our produce, and it is able to get to the Middle East in 48 hours. Qatar is already our 34th largest export destination. This gives us the scope to boost that through the seafood, fruit and meat we know the Middle East loves.

As I reported to the House, the Crisafulli government has already started work on developing a 20-year tourism plan because we want connections to just be the start. We are determined to grow international visitor numbers and increase overnight visitor expenditure, and that means more jobs for Queenslanders through thousands of tourism businesses. We are determined to lay a foundation for Queensland's future tourism industry that will help deliver a world-class Olympic and Paralympic Games that leave a legacy for Queensland.