

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 747**  
**Asked on 29 October 2013**

**MR HART** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS, SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (MRS STUCKEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on the 12 month anniversary of QANTAS returning to the Gold Coast and how this has benefited the local economy?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Burleigh for the question.

Qantas' decision to resume three daily services between Sydney and the Gold Coast on 28 October 2012 added 3,528 seats for visitors to the Gold Coast per week.

This increase in seats along with extensive marketing activity in the second half of 2012-13 targeting interstate markets has maximised opportunities for the Gold Coast and is assisting in realising the goal of growing overnight visitor expenditure to \$30 billion by 2020.

Passenger travel between Sydney and the Gold Coast is showing increases. From October 2012 to August 2013 passengers traveling in both directions on the Sydney – Gold Coast route across all airlines increased from 2.4 million to 2.8 million.\* The Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics.

In addition, domestic overnight expenditure on the Gold Coast increased by 2 per cent (or \$76 million) to \$3.1 billion in the year to June 2013. A major driver of this growth was the Sydney market, which recorded the largest increase in overnight visitors to the Gold Coast with 655,000 visitors (an increase of 43 per cent or 196,000 extra visitors in the year to June 2013).

\*National Visitor Survey, Year Ended June 2013.

Queensland also has a strong partnership with Qantas formalised through a \$12 million cooperative marketing agreement between Tourism and Events Queensland and Qantas in place until 2016. Within Australia, the focus of this agreement is to boosting domestic business and premium leisure travel to Queensland as well as encouraging more interstate visitors to Queensland's regional destinations accessible via Qantas' extensive domestic network.