

Question on Notice
No. 36
Asked on 12 February 2014

MS BARTON ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS, SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (MRS STUCKEY)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the Commonwealth Games Legacy will benefit the Gold Coast and specifically the Broadwater Electorate?

ANSWER:

The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games™ (GC2018) will be the largest sporting event in Australia for a decade and is expected to generate a \$2 billion economic boost and create 30,000 jobs.

This prestigious event is a significant opportunity for Queensland and the Newman Government is committed to ensuring that the lasting benefits of hosting the Commonwealth Games are maximised for Queensland and the Gold Coast.

I recently launched *Embracing our Games Legacy – Queensland's legacy for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games™*. This strategy focuses on three key areas – our economy, our lifestyle, and our community. Each of these areas will benefit the Gold Coast community.

We have already seen a significant legacy with the redevelopment of the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre which is nearing completion. While the Aquatic Centre will host international sporting events, such as the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships in August 2014, it will also provide an invaluable facility to the Gold Coast community on a daily basis from learn to swim schools to hosting school swimming carnivals.

South East Queensland businesses have already benefitted from investment in the Commonwealth Games, with 96 percent of contractors working on the Aquatic Centre redevelopment coming from South East Queensland and of these approximately 65 percent being from the Gold Coast. This is even more impressive if you consider that only 47 percent of tenders received were from Gold Coast businesses.

The Aquatic Centre redevelopment is creating around 350 full-time equivalent jobs.

The Aquatic Centre redevelopment is being complemented by the Broadwater Parklands upgrade, which is another substantial Commonwealth Games legacy project being undertaken by our Games Partner, the City of Gold Coast Council.

The Aquatic Centre redevelopment is the first construction project around GC2018. This year we will see the start of the Commonwealth Games Village which will become the heart of the Gold Coast health and knowledge precinct creating a new residential and economic community for the Gold Coast.

The construction and redevelopment of a number of sporting venues will also commence later this year notably the new Carrara and Coomera indoor centres. These facilities will provide the city with improved capability for sporting activity from the grass roots through to the elite level for many decades to come.

The Gold Coast will benefit from the considerable promotion of the city throughout the Commonwealth as it hosts this event. The 2018 Commonwealth Games are expected to have a world-wide television audience of 1.5 billion people with over 3,000 journalists expected to travel to the Gold Coast to cover this event.

Our first opportunity to promote the city on the global stage will occur later this year when during the Glasgow 2014 closing ceremony Queensland is formally handed the responsibility to organise the 2018 Games.

The Queensland Government in collaboration with the City of Gold Coast Council will be working hard to realise the vision of our legacy strategy and ensure that hosting GC2018 provides lasting benefits for Queensland and the Gold Coast.