MR KELLY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND MAJOR EVENTS (HON K JONES)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister outline how Queensland will benefit from increased flights to the state including the recently announced additional flights to Queensland by Hong Kong Airlines?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to growing tourism in Queensland and airline access from international markets is critical to the competitiveness of the Queensland tourism industry.

Through the Queensland Government's investment in the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund (AAIF) Queensland continues to become increasingly more accessible for international tourists.

From December 2016, two additional Hong Kong Airlines services will fly into Queensland delivering an extra $70 million in overnight visitor expenditure to the state over the next three years.

The additional flights will complement the highly successful route between Hong Kong, the Gold Coast and Cairns, increasing the number of inbound flights from three to five per week.

These additional flights were secured with support from AAIF through Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) in partnership with Gold Coast Tourism, Cairns Airport, Tourism Tropical North Queensland and Gold Coast Airport.

In the 2016-17 Budget, the Palaszczuk Government committed $33.5 million to the new *Advance Queensland: Connecting with Asia Strategy* to attract more Asian visitors to Queensland. In the year ending June 2016, Queensland welcomed 62,000 visitors from Hong Kong, an increase of 21% compared to the previous year. During their time in the state, these visitors contributed $138.6 million in visitor expenditure.

The Queensland Government will continue to work with airline partners, regional tourism organisations and major airports to secure more international flights into Queensland, supporting local jobs and inspiring more visitors to experience the best address on earth.