

Question on Notice
No. 683
Asked on 17 May 2018

Mrs B Lauga asked Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

Will the Premier outline how her delegation to Hollywood will bring the next blockbusters home to Queensland and whether there will be opportunities for regional Queensland?

ANSWER:

During my recent trade mission to the United States, I met with several leading global screen industry companies and production teams in Los Angeles, including Netflix and Disney. These meetings were part of ongoing engagement and relationship building to highlight Queensland's outstanding reputation in high-end screen productions and to continue to attract major movies and television series to our State.

My Government's \$50 million Production Attraction Strategy has secured a pipeline of productions to Queensland, such as feature films *Thor* and *Aquaman*, as well as high-end television series *Tidelands* and *Harrow*, making 2015-16 and 2016-17 the most successful years for screen production in our State in the last 10 years. My delegation to Hollywood was focused on continuing to build on this success and attract more major big and small screen productions to Queensland.

We will ensure the regions can continue to capitalise on the opportunities these productions present when filming their areas. For example Vietnam war movie epic *Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan* filmed in the South Burnett recently and the Netflix Original Series drama *Tidelands*, also produced by Hoodlum, is currently filming in the Redlands region. These productions used regional Queensland locations as a backdrop for their productions, worked with small businesses and tourism operators in the areas, and delivered significant economic, cultural and tourism benefits to the regions.

Screen Queensland also works closely with regional councils in the Film Friendly Pathways Program to ensure they are well-positioned to meet the needs of the productions and able to maximise the economic and employment opportunities presented. I encourage all regional councils to join this program to build their regional profile and build pathways to connect local businesses and suppliers to the potential economic opportunities with productions. This program also profiles regions on the Screen Queensland app which currently lists 37 Film Friendly Councils. I urge all regional councils to work with Screen Queensland to ensure they are a film friendly region and are ready to welcome major productions to their area and maximise the economic, cultural and tourism opportunities that working with major productions presents.