

Question on Notice
No. 676
Asked on 23 June 2022

MR A POWELL ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM, INNOVATION AND SPORT AND MINISTER ASSISTING THE PREMIER ON OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS SPORT AND ENGAGEMENT (HON S HINCHLIFFE) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise why the Tourism Industry Reference Panel final plan was not released in early 2022 as promised?

ANSWER:

The Tourism Industry Reference Panel (the Panel) was formed before the end of the Australian Government's JobKeeper Payment, before Australia's COVID-19 vaccination roll-out, before Queensland's 2021-22 floods, and before the reopening of Australia's international borders. The Panel's initial discussions with industry focused heavily on the immediate needs of the sector, how the visitor economy could recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and the eventual 'return to normal'.

With a focus for immediate action, on 28 October 2021, the Panel released their Interim Action Plan for Tourism Recovery (the Interim Action Plan). The Interim Action Plan was designed to help restart the tourism industry and make the most of the opportunities Queensland has, leading into the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Brisbane 2032).

At the release of the Interim Action Plan, the Final Action Plan for Tourism Recovery (Final Action Plan) was anticipated for the first half of 2022. The Palaszczuk Government released the Final Action Plan on 21 June 2022, within the first half of 2022.

The last 18 months has brought many challenges to the tourism industry, including changes to visitor demographics, expectations and travel behaviours. Understanding emerging and future trends in travel has taken time. The Panel also engaged widely, including through a state-wide consultation process, and commissioned research to better understand the opportunities available to Queensland.

Stakeholders have welcomed the timing of the Final Action Plan.