



Speech By  
**Hon. Jann Stuckey**

**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Tourism Industry; Small Business**

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (9.51 am): As we approach the milestone of 12 months of the Newman government, I wish to update the House on the many outstanding achievements in my portfolio during this time. This government recognises tourism as one of the four pillars of the state's economy, and we are totally committed to regaining Queensland's position as the No. 1 tourism destination in Australia. In just under 12 months this government has set up a department for tourism and small business. We have established the Tourism Cabinet Committee. We have put in place both the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund and the Tourism Investment Attraction Unit. We have conducted the very first DestinationQ tourism industry forum in Cairns and merged Tourism and Events Queensland into one streamlined super entity. But this is just the start.

We are also attracting more visitors to Queensland through our \$20 million tourism investment strategy, which is focused on destination marketing and tourism attraction. A major announcement at the DestinationQ forum was the more than doubling of funding for our regional tourism organisations—up to \$7 million, with almost \$4 million going towards a contestable fund. Each of our state's 13 RTOs was successful in their bid for a slice of this money, and we are already seeing some wonderful, innovative projects from our RTOs. Of even greater importance, though, was the landmark partnership signed between the government and peak industry body QTIC in which we agreed to 25 priority actions, all of which either have been achieved or are on track.

This House would be very accustomed to me talking about aviation. That is because since March last year we have seen a number of airlines committing to Queensland including Qantas, Etihad, Scoot and of course China Eastern, being the first deal announced under our Attracting Aviation Investment Fund. Recently I had the pleasure of welcoming yet another airline to Brisbane, Hawaiian Airlines, flying directly from Honolulu to Brisbane three times a week, adding a further 41,000 seats direct into Brisbane and opening up new routes from other US cities.

We are working to make it simpler for small business to do business with government by providing \$9.6 million for business-to-government services. After all, small business underpins the four pillars of tourism, agriculture, resources and construction and is the backbone of Queensland's economy. Our business industry portal, [business.qld.gov.au](http://business.qld.gov.au), has achieved outstanding results, with 128,000 unique visitors a month—more than triple the number of the same time last year. We have also reinvigorated the Mentoring for Growth program, with 371 mentors providing free assistance to 44 companies over the past year.

And on the Commonwealth Games front, last week I turned the first sod of the \$41 million redevelopment of the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre at Southport, and later this year we will see work commence on the athletes village at Parklands.

Later this week I anticipate more good news when our domestic visitor survey numbers are released for the December 2012 quarter. I could continue, but I am sure that all honourable members can see we are getting Queensland back on track and proving yet again that this is a great state with great opportunity.