



Speech By  
**Hon. Jann Stuckey**

**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

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**APPROPRIATION BILLS: STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND  
INDUSTRY COMMITTEE**

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (6.12 pm): I rise to address the report of the estimates hearing of the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee in relation to my portfolio of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games. I add my thanks to the hardworking members of the committee, chiefly the chair, the honourable member for Gympie, and the parliamentary staff who have once again assisted us through this lengthy process. Additionally, I express my sincere gratitude to my departmental and ministerial staff for their concrete assistance.

In this year's estimates hearing, I was really looking forward to seeing Labor finally take an interest in some key components of the Queensland economy, namely, our tourism and small business sectors. They have avoided those sectors in literally hundreds of question time opportunities. However, yet again I was let down by the laziest and best resourced opposition in the country. I reject the comments made by opposition members within their statement of reservations.

I turn first to the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, which is an event expected to inject an estimated \$2 billion into the Queensland economy and provide up to 30,000 full-time equivalent jobs. Departments across government will play a key role in delivering these games. However, their activities will occur at my discretion as the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games. Harnessing expert knowledge to deliver the best result for Queensland and the Commonwealth Games is something the Labor Party fails to grasp or, indeed, to understand. For the benefit of the House, I am once again happy to explain how the roles and responsibilities are divided between the Deputy Premier and I.

In terms of infrastructure projects, as the Minister for the Commonwealth Games I determine the sport and village locations and sites for development with reference to bid-book commitment, occupational requirements and asset owner requirements. I determine venue requirements and the Commonwealth Games Village functional requirements. I manage the venue's construction budget and operate the venues and village in games mode. The Deputy Premier, through Economic Development Queensland, manages the procurement of the design team and the building contractors for venues. He manages the procurement of the Commonwealth Games Village developer. He provides the Commonwealth Games Village planning approvals and authorities and project manages the venue and village construction processes.

Undoubtedly for Queensland's \$17.5 billion tourism industry, this is an important budget as it is the first of the combined super entity, Tourism and Events Queensland. The 2014 budget allocated \$128 million to Tourism and Events Queensland to promote and market Queensland and its world-class destinations, building unique and appealing tourism experiences and identifying, attracting and developing major events for the state. On 22 July, I was joined by the Premier to announce that Queensland has secured a three-year agreement with V8 Supercars, which will see the continuation of the Gold Coast 600, the Townsville 400 and the Ipswich 360 until 2016. Less than 48 hours later, I had the pleasure of joining Tennis Australia to announce that for the first time Roger Federer, winner

of 17 grand slam singles titles, would be travelling to Brisbane to compete in the 2014 Brisbane International. Let us not forget the magnificent Bolshoi Ballet's recent exclusive Australian season held right here in Brisbane, after an absence of over 25 years.

Despite what the opposition may say, I make no apologies for ensuring that our negotiations deliver the best outcomes for taxpayers' dollars and promote Queensland to an international market. Labor's record on negotiations is there for all to see. For a refresher course, I recommend that members opposite reacquaint themselves with report No. 1 of 2010, the Auditor-General's audit of the disastrous A1GP agreement, to learn what happens when you dispense with due diligence. What was more telling was the opposition's continual attempts to raise issues that are the responsibility of other ministerial portfolios. Whether talking about trading hours or insinuating impropriety without proof, they failed to follow up those issues with any of the relevant ministers to whom those questions should have been directed, despite ample opportunity to do so. Procurement is an important issue and the opposition members' attempts to score points on this issue backfired as the fact is that this procurement policy was one they themselves introduced when in government.

This budget allows us to continue the great work of my department in facilitating investment in Queensland's tourism industry to secure new and expand existing aviation routes and to progress priority items identified at the inaugural DestinationQ Forum held in Cairns last year. For too long our small businesses have suffered at the hands of Labor neglect. Last week I had the unqualified pleasure of hosting the inaugural Queensland Small Business Week. We all know the ALP has no respect for small business—it never has and never will—but I am very proud that the 2014 budget allows my department to continue our great work.

*(Time expired)*