



Speech By  
**Hon. Jann Stuckey**

**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 May 2014

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Tourism**

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (9.51 am): Tourism is one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy, accounting for some 10 per cent of all Queensland jobs. The Newman government has worked tirelessly to kick-start the tourism industry following many years of Labor neglect. The quarterly report released by the Premier last week outlines many of these achievements, and I am pleased to update the House on further good news for our tourism industry.

Last week's international visitor survey for the period ending December 2013 showed international tourists continue to flock to our great state. International visitation increased two per cent to more than two million visitors, supporting the government's goal to double overnight annual visitor expenditure from \$15 billion to \$30 billion. International visitor expenditure increased four per cent to \$4 billion.

We continue to be a favourite destination for our Asian neighbours, with 814,000 visitors spending \$1.7 billion on trips to Queensland over the last 12 months. There were strong increases from India up 37 per cent, from China up 16 per cent and from Taiwan up 18 per cent, whilst Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong all had significant increases. The boost in visitation is being felt across regional Queensland. Tropical North Queensland continues to be a popular destination, with the region recording a six per cent increase in holiday-makers, some 627,000 international tourists enjoying the plentiful 'Adventurous by nature' experiences on offer. This weekend the region prepares to host Australian Tourism Exchange, the first time that this major industry event has been held outside of a capital city, bringing with it a \$10 million boost to the local economy.

As a passionate and dedicated Gold Coast member, I am proud to report international visitors to the Gold Coast grew seven per cent to 800,000, those visitors spending \$916 million—an increase of 10 per cent. The Newman government is committed to the long-term success of our tourism industry to continue to create jobs for Queenslanders. Through our 20-year plan for tourism, Destination Success, we are delivering on our election promises. By working in partnership with industry, we will continue to build upon this momentum, ensuring a strong and prosperous tourism industry for Queensland.