



Speech By
Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Tourism

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.46 pm): Unlike Minister Jones, who showed her disrespect for Queensland's tourism industry by calling it a 'leaning tower of Pisa', the LNP recognised tourism as one of the four pillars of Queensland's economy. We established a tourism cabinet committee as part of our whole-of-government approach to tourism. We merged Tourism Queensland and Events Queensland to deliver a coordinated super entity to attract visitors and events to Queensland. For the very first time we made tourism a state interest in the planning system.

The former government held three annual DestinationQ forums. That was the first time in 27 years that government and industry had come together to plan for the future and a formal agreement was signed with QTIC as the industry's voice. We launched Destination Success, a 20-year plan for Queensland tourism. We delivered 13 Destination Tourism Plans in partnership with our RTOs and we doubled funding to RTOs. We delivered \$49.5 million in new state funding to TEQ. We invested over \$51 million in domestic marketing activity and over \$31.5 million in international marketing activity. We produced the sensational It's Live! In Queensland campaign, which supported 106 major events and 246 regional events through the regional development program and attracted several new airline routes to Queensland.

The industry noticed what we were doing. On 13 February this year QTIC's Daniel Gschwind wrote—

Tourism is a matter of bi-partisan interest and I acknowledge the commitment and innovative approach that the LNP Government has brought to working with us and the tourism industry.

Under the leadership of the former Premier, the Tourism Minister and other members of the Tourism Cabinet Committee, the focus on our industry in the last term of government has been strong and we hope that the strategic direction that has been set will be continued.

Take note, Labor. On 27 March 2015 John O'Sullivan, head of Tourism Australia, wrote—

I know you will continue to be a passionate advocate for tourism in Queensland. I would like to acknowledge your work on behalf of the industry during your time as Queensland Minister for Tourism and Major Events and I can assure you that Tourism Australia is committed to partnering with Tourism and Events Queensland to achieve their 2020 targets.

But of real concern is whether this government will respect the hard work done by the industry and Tourism Australia and align itself with these targets. Judging by the minister's comments, the government will not.

Tourism Australia set an aspirational goal to double overnight visitor expenditure by 2020 and in the spirit of collaboration the LNP also set its target along those lines. The Auditor-General's tourism report acknowledges the LNP's hard work creating initiatives like DestinationQ and the setting of benchmarks and better reporting measures, which were lacking under Labor. In his report the Auditor-General comments about not being on track to reach the 2020 targets, but I make no apology for setting ambitious stretch targets with Tourism Australia.

This government has not set a target for anything. It has no plans. It has to call up its union bosses to make any decisions—job destroyers, job cripplers who use heavy-handed standover tactics to get their way. Tourism deserves better than that.