




Speech By
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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Tourism Industry

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (12.07 pm): Tourism is vital to Queensland and the LNP knows that. It contributes \$23 billion to our economy, supports over 53,000 businesses—mostly small ones, I might add—and employs some 240,000 Queenslanders. So it would be reasonable to expect it to feature in the Palaszczuk government's first three months document. But just how many times did the word 'tourism' rate a mention? Five—and two of those were photograph credits; credits to Tourism Queensland. Labor even got that wrong. Tourism Queensland has not existed since 2012 when the LNP merged Tourism Queensland and Events Queensland.

The other three mentions of the word are all in one sentence under the heading 'Commonwealth Games leadership'. The Auditor-General recommended in his report a revised governance structure for the games be implemented with single, whole-of-games program delivery accountability and the requisite authority over individual project governance arrangements. I doubt this model is what he had in mind.

Labor's *Growth for tourism guarantee* election documents state that there will be a tourism cabinet subcommittee. Yet the first three months document has no mention of this. Instead, there is a dual tourism and Commonwealth Games committee, not two dedicated entities as we were led to believe. The Premier would have us believe this new tourism and Commonwealth Games committee will ensure Queenslanders capitalise on jobs, investment and new tourism opportunities. Labor is big on gestures, symbolism, reviews and new names for things but totally incompetent when it comes to action—even media articles highlight business angst with regard to the Palaszczuk government's go slow, no plans, no vision. The Treasurer says we are in a recession and the tourism minister refers to our proud tourism industry as the 'Leaning Tower of Pisa'.

Within the first 100 days of the LNP government we had set up the whole-of-government initiative called DestinationQ—a proper and meaningful tourism cabinet committee, chaired by the tourism minister, with membership including the then deputy premier, who made tourism a state interest for the very first time, and the ministers for education and employment, transport and main roads, parks and sport, local government, and the arts, and the ability to call on any minister for advice and content that would assist tourism.

Within the first 100 days we established the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund and the Tourism Investment Attraction Unit and held the first tourism conference in Queensland for some 27 years. DestinationQ took place in Cairns and was oversubscribed such was the interest. A formal agreement was signed with QTIC, recognised as the industry's voice, and some 32 items assigned to various departments to deliver within 12 months.

The first three months—now, that is a creative name for the government's efforts, isn't it? If they are not playing revenge payback politics, they are being different for different's sake. The

Premier says she is proud of her government's significant achievements—but, my, that is a big lend of the word 'significant'! Steven Wardill's article on 20 May refers to five meaningless initiatives: adding Great Barrier Reef to a minister's title; the Commonwealth Games Cabinet Committee; establishing the Productivity Commission; re-engaging conservation groups; and cutting cabinet size. It also lists initiatives which would have happened anyway, and there are many examples of Labor taking credit for the LNP's hard work from my previous portfolio and that of other former ministers. There is no mention of drive tourism despite domestic tourism making up 80 per cent of total tourism figures. Ecotourism opportunities will be crucified under green tape. And who could forget Minister Jones's track record in the environment portfolio pre-2012—a disaster, to put it mildly.

Under integrity and accountability we find the investigation of the greyhound racing industry. Rather than conduct a commission of inquiry, the government and the minister dithered by announcing a review which, considering the level of allegations, was impotent as witnesses could not be called and it had limited powers. I commend Alan MacSporran QC for calling for a commission of inquiry and for his thorough and professionally presented report. The LNP supports actions that will ensure the abhorrent practice of live baiting in the greyhound industry is stamped out once and for all. Mr MacSporran's report demands the industry clean up its act via a raft of recommendations to address overbreeding and the sickening practice of live baiting.

Three hundred and forty-two submissions painted a very dark picture of an industry that has brought shame upon itself and betrayed public confidence. The report stated that self-regulation failed on two fronts—safeguarding animal welfare and integrity within the industry. The LNP will be following events closely, and I shall be writing to the minister to seek regular briefings on the progress of the recommended reforms and I trust my request will be looked upon favourably. The government has moved swiftly all right: members of the Thoroughbred Racing Board have this morning received a phone call from the minister's office and been sacked. I am told that this is the first communication they have had with the minister since he was sworn in. So much for consultation!