Budget delivers for tourism, Commonwealth Games and small business

The Palaszczuk Government will deliver funding certainty for Queensland tourism, support for our state’s small business sector and continue the roll out of Commonwealth Games funding to drive jobs creation.

The Palaszczuk Government will deliver certainty to Queensland tourism with more than $400 million in funding over the next four years.

This funding guarantee delivers on the Government’s election commitment and will encourage investment in tourism and events that will draw visitors to Queensland.

The Palaszczuk Government’s $10 million Attracting Aviation Investment Fund and $100 million pledge to protect the Great Barrier Reef will further strengthen Queensland tourism.

Minister for Tourism and Major Events Kate Jones said the four-year funding guarantee for Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) meant the tourism industry could operate with certainty.

“TEQ will now be able to plan on a longer-term basis with an assurance that their funding is locked in for the next four years.

“The funding guarantee will enable TEQ to enter into multi-year partnerships and look more strategically at marketing and events investment with tourism and event operators in Queensland’s regions.

“Now TEQ can consider retaining high-value events with longer planning cycles that will deliver better visitation growth.

“The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games will create up to 30,000 jobs and with less than 1,000 days to go, momentum is building.

“The Palaszczyk Government will continue the roll-out of Games funding with $174.6 million for the development of facilities on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane.

“This includes capital grants of $83.5 million for the Carrara Precinct encompassing the Carrara Sport and Leisure Centre and Carrara Indoor Stadium, and $30.8 million for the Coomera Sports and Leisure Centre.

“In addition, $39.5 million is allocated to the Queensland State Velodrome for track cycling,” Ms Jones said.

“This significant outlay reflects the Government’s commitment to investing in infrastructure and facilities for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, which will ensure a high-value legacy for our state well beyond the actual event.”
The Budget delivers support for Queensland small businesses to encourage growth and create jobs.

“We want more people to think about starting a small business through our $2 million Queensland Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow program,” Ms Jones said.

“This includes $1 million over three years to encourage students to consider starting their own business through entrepreneurship and IT skills programs in schools across Queensland.

“The program also includes $1 million over three years to assist stay-at-home parents to develop home based businesses.

“We will also be continuing the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council which provides direct input to government on issues facing the small business sector,” she said.

“In 2015 we are establishing the Red Tape Reduction Advisory Council to focus on addressing red tape affecting small business.

“There is also funding to stage the Small Business Week program of events in early 2016.”

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