

RESPONSE:

Mr David Jull, M.H.R.,
(Member for Bowman)

Mr Mayor, Mr Casey, the leader of the Opposition in the Queensland Parliament, and my parliamentary colleague, Mr Ray Braithwaite, Mr Angus Innes, M.L.A. and Mr Ray Jones, M.L.A., Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you very much Mr Mayor for your welcome to Mackay and your discussion regarding the future of the North Queensland tourist industry. I agree with many of the points you raised. Many will be discussed during my programmed speech.

But firstly, I must apologise for the absence of Senator Webster, the Commonwealth Minister for Science and the Environment. A telegram was received from him late yesterday, which read: "As I am in the Northern Territory this weekend, I very much regret am unable to attend your workshop and conference. My best wishes for the success of this particular project" signed J.J. Webster, Minister for Science and the Environment.

Mr Mayor, the Commonwealth Government takes this conference most seriously. I was interested to hear your comments on the role that should be played by the government. In the past, all levels of government; Federal, State and Local have not given the regard to the tourist industry that it has deserved. It is only now that governments are seeing the real benefits that tourism can provide. Governments are aware of the wealth and the prosperity that tourism can bring. It is very easy to say "let's bring the tourist in". There's a lot more that has to be done with a lot of care if the full benefits of tourism are to be obtained, and indeed if we are not to make a mess of our own society in the process.

I believe these are some of the points that will be discussed during this workshop and I trust that the deliberations, decisions and recommendations made will be forwarded to all areas of government concerned.

Tourism is a huge industry world-wide. At the moment it is the second biggest industry in the world, after oil. Last year, tourism was worth something like \$360 billion world-wide, and Australia's share of the tourist dollar was 0.07%. We have a long way to go before we can take full advantage of the benefits of tourism, both international and domestic. I am sure that all the delegates here today will

agree that we must be prepared to give our all in our considerations to find out the best moves to be made in Australia. I am sure that this workshop will be particularly beneficial to those endeavours. I am certainly looking forward to taking the results of it back to Canberra.

Mr Mayor, once again thank you for your very warm welcome this morning. I know all the delegates here did appreciate it.