



MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

Best wishes to South-East Queensland's Hindu communities as you celebrate Navaratri – one of the greatest of the Hindu Festivals.

Tonight you join fellow worshippers all around the world who are also celebrating this most auspicious period in the Hindu calendar with music, dance and worship.

Queensland is a truly multicultural success story. We are home to people from more than 220 different countries and geographical locations, who speak more than 200 languages and embrace more than 100 different religions or belief systems.

Our State is richer for its multiculturalism, and the Government is committed to promoting, celebrating and valuing the many benefits our multicultural society delivers to all Queenslanders.

The Government wants to help build a more united, more harmonious and more inclusive Queensland. We want Queensland to be a place where the contribution of all members of society is valued and recognised.

The Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Honourable Shannon Fentiman MP, heads up a Multicultural Reference Group that is currently consulting all around Queensland on a proposed Multicultural Recognition Bill.

This Bill will help shape Queensland's multicultural future – a future that will value people no matter where they come from, no matter what language they speak and no matter what faith they follow.

We look forward to the Bill coming before Parliament in the New Year.

I commend the Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association for once again organising this popular festival and actively promoting our State's diversity.

Enjoy the 2015 Navaratri Festival everyone!

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS**