



Message from the Premier of Queensland

Welcome to Winton's Way Out West Fest 2019.

I am delighted this is becoming one of the go-to events on the Queensland Outback Tourism calendar because it showcases all that is magical, historical and cultural about this region.

Last year's inaugural Way Out West Fest was the great success we hoped it would be – supporting Winton and the surrounding areas, and demonstrating that Queensland's Outback is now a global hotspot for tourism sustained by some of the friendliest Queenslanders in our great State.

Winton has an amazing history. Waltzing Matilda was written here and, according to legend, first performed by A.B. 'Banjo' Patterson at the North Gregory Hotel. Qantas was founded here. Winton has provided the backdrop for films and inspired artists and poets. Now, it is home to Way Out West Fest which is helping to grow Outback Queensland's \$617 million tourism industry.

Domestic and overseas tourists are captivated by the unique splendour of regional Queensland, with international visitor expenditure in our Outback increasing by more than 11 per cent over the last three years. My Government wants to ensure we can build on this and has committed \$10 million to the Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund. Additionally, a \$3 million Outback Tourism Industry grant program will help establish new and grow existing outback tourism opportunities.

This is why my Government is proud to support Winton's Way Out West Fest 2019. I hope you enjoy this wonderful event.

A blue ink handwritten signature of Annastacia Palaszczuk, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a long horizontal line.

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND
MINISTER FOR TRADE**



**Queensland
Government**