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## **MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND**

Where else in Queensland can you indulge in a passion for jousting, battles and medieval dance?

Only here – and only once a year – as some 22,000 medieval enthusiasts enjoy a fabulous range of medieval events, from mock battles to jousting to drama, music, craft and dance.

It's a part of history that is rarely celebrated in Queensland –making this celebration truly unique.

The opportunity to step back in time and see first hand the impact this colourful period has had on modern civilization is hard to resist. Markets, activities and food stalls, really do create an experience to remember.

One of my Government's Toward Q2 ambitions is to protect our lifestyle and environment. That's why we support events like the Abbey Medieval Festival through the Queensland Events Regional Development Program.

This program has provided more than \$15.3 million to 705 regional events since it started as a world-first initiative in 2001.

These events create jobs, attract tourists, fuel growth and prosperity and give a tremendous sense of pride for the local host communities.

Across the State, thousands of individuals, community groups, local councils and in some cases entire towns, put countless hours into ensuring their events are a success.

Enjoy the Abbey Medieval Festival and I hope you will have an opportunity to discover more of Queensland's great events in the coming year.

**ANNA BLIGH MP**  
**PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND**