




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Startup Mackay Weekend

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.40 pm): The Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation visited Mackay on Wednesday last week to address stakeholders from business, industry, entrepreneurs and the university sector to engage with their community in the Advance Queensland investment of \$180 million over four years to create the knowledge based jobs of the future. The Advance Queensland initiative will assist new businesses to start up. The Palaszczuk Labor government has a plan to grow industry and jobs—jobs for now and jobs for the future. This is exactly what the Mackay community needs to grow our economy and jobs.

The organisation Startup Mackay was one of the stakeholder groups at the minister's briefing. Startup Mackay is the region's leading tech based entrepreneurship group. The minister's visit dovetailed into the Startup Mackay Weekend. Mackay's start-up sector impressed some of the best minds in business when budding entrepreneurs throughout the region came together to develop and pitch their ideas to potential investors.

A 54-hour start-up weekend held at the Central Queensland University in Mackay was an opportunity for students, businesspeople and all those with a good idea to develop their business model further with support from local experts and industry mentors.

Mr Seeney: Even Mulherin was more interesting.

Mrs GILBERT: Excuse me. They are being offensive.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order! Was there a specific comment that you found offensive? Continue please. I remind members to be orderly.

Mrs GILBERT: This is a workplace, and it was only last sitting week that we all went down to the park for Red Rose Day when the Leader of the Opposition actually said that we should not accept offensive behaviour in the workplace. So those opposite should listen to the words of their leader.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is that those of us on this side of the House have to listen to offensive things being thrown at us all the time. Just because the honourable member over there is part of the government—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. I call the member for Mackay.

Mrs GILBERT: The start-up weekend was a great time for Mackay to showcase the innovation that is happening in our centre. The top three presentations of the weekend were as follows. One was an app for coin and bank note collectors. This app has already been picked up by one of the investors and has the potential to go worldwide. There was also a safety bracelet for children. It will allow children to send messages back to their parents without needing a phone. They can send a message to say,

'Yes, I have arrived safely at tennis,' or 'It is time to pick me up.' Another innovative idea was a wireless smoke alarm, for which you will not need to stand on a ladder to change the batteries. This alarm will be able to send you information about heat and smoke when you are away from your home.

(Time expired)