



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Life Sciences Industry in Parliament**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.41 am): Later today I will attend Life Sciences Queensland's Life Sciences Industry in Parliament event. This is a great opportunity for me to hear directly from stakeholders, many of whom I have already met over the past few months, in what is an important industry for Queensland. It is thanks to the foresight of previous Labor administrations in making significant investments in life sciences infrastructure and skills that today Queensland has excellent globally connected biomedical and biotechnology capabilities. We are now well positioned to build on and leverage those capabilities, which is all the more important right now.

Our economy is evolving and that evolution is picking up pace. In this state it is something that we have to be more than just ready for; it is something that we have to act on. To ensure that our economy remains strong and the state has a great future, we need to take advantage of the new knowledge, ideas and innovations being developed by our life sciences industry. As Minister for Science and Innovation, I want to enable the research sector and industry to pursue innovations that deliver new products and services to the market and give Queensland workers access to the new jobs that will be created by new and emerging industries. As a government, we will do everything we can to make this happen. We will look to reinvigorate research and development in Queensland, invest in people and improve the links between industry, researchers and government.

The government's \$50 million Advance Queensland policy will drive research and innovation in areas where our state already has a competitive advantage, such as medicine and biotechnology, agriculture and agribusiness, and food technology. It includes programs aimed at strengthening research/industry collaboration and mobility, as well as a payroll tax holiday for new start-ups created as a result of Advance Queensland funding. Advance Queensland is complemented by the \$40 million Business Development Fund, which will see us invest in joint ventures with start-up firms that create new jobs and new industries making products right here in Queensland.

One of the keys to achieving this will be increasing the translation of our excellent life sciences. We need to bring more of our world-class research into application and retain more of the jobs and wealth derived from that research here in Queensland. We have the policies to make that happen. The Palaszczuk government is confident that life sciences will continue to make an important contribution to Queensland's economy, helping to diversify our economy and provide high-value jobs into the future, right here in Queensland.