




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.21 pm): The Palaszczuk Labor team presented the people of Queensland with a positive policy agenda at the recent election and since forming government we have been out on the ground delivering that agenda. One positive change concerns Queensland government contracts around the provision of social services for non-government organisations, or NGOs. A section known as the ‘no-advocacy clause’ had been placed into hundreds of NGO contracts by the previous government. In one of the first actions of this government, this clause has been removed.

In opposition and during the election campaign, many members of the non-government sector raised their concerns about this with me and with my colleagues. We have acted to bring in this important change and to give the sector back its voice. That will be the mark of this government: a willingness to engage Queenslanders, listen to their concerns and communicate the way forward.

This change impacts groups right across the state, and that is another feature of this government. We are governing for all of Queensland, not just the south-east corner, which is why I recently was at James Cook University in Cairns for the signing of a 10-year agreement to continue support for the Australian Tropical Herbarium. The Palaszczuk government has committed more than \$5.5 million over 10 years as part of the agreement with JCU, CSIRO and the Australian government’s Department of the Environment. This sort of investment is important because we need to harness the opportunities available in science and innovation to ensure Queensland workers have access to new jobs.

To continue to build that capacity, the government has also supported another joint partnership, the new Chair in Digital Economy at the Queensland University of Technology. The chair is the first of its kind in Australia and one of the few positions of this kind in the world. Creating this position is a step towards growing the jobs of the future and shows the state’s commitment to embracing digital innovation.

From opening the \$15 million Caggara House social housing development at Mount Gravatt to meeting with the Torres Strait Island Regional Council to discuss housing affordability, from talking to the chippies at Mossman joinery about business opportunities to opening the State Library’s *Distant Lines* exhibition commemorating Queenslanders who served in World War I, the first three months have been consistently busy in delivering for Queensland, and the next three years will be more of the same.