



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGER**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 July 2015

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Advance Queensland, Science and Innovation**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.53 am): Mr Speaker, yesterday I had the pleasure of joining the Premier as she launched this government's blueprint for creating jobs now and for the future. Advance Queensland is a comprehensive \$180 million package that will help our state move beyond our traditional strengths and continue our transition to a knowledge based economy with new industries and the new jobs that come with them.

We are fortunate to live in a state rich in natural resources and beauty, but to remain competitive globally we need to diversify our economic focus. To have a successful economy into the future we need industry to drive digital innovation and transition to a knowledge based economy. Queensland is well positioned to make this transition. We already have the foundations of exciting and innovative industries with tremendous capacity for growth in sectors such as ICT, spatial industries and start-ups. On Sunday I saw some of these in action firsthand at the Brisbane Startup Weekend at River City Labs. Start-up weekends are community driven events that challenge participants to launch a new product or service in 54 hours. By providing a forum for participants to pitch their ideas, teams test their business models and create prototypes with expert support. By bringing together entrepreneurs and mentors, events like this can be the catalyst for a new generation of success stories. I would like to congratulate PowerDialer on their win at the start-up event.

As a legacy of the strong investment that previous Labor governments made in research and innovation, we have excellent research infrastructure and a deep pool of talent too. Those governments invested \$4.9 billion between 1998 and 2012 in science, research and innovation in Queensland. During this period 44 new research institutes were built and the number of scientists in Queensland more than doubled to over 18,000. It is this level of commitment to science and innovation that has been missing in recent years.

Advance Queensland will build on what we have while planning for the future. We need to use the knowledge generated by research and innovation to create new businesses and industries and new ways of doing things. Most importantly, we need to use the knowledge generated by research and innovation to create the jobs of the future. Advance Queensland will help create these new industries and those new jobs.