




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2015

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Science in Parliament, Advance Queensland

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.31 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government recognises science and innovation as the keys to our state's future economic prosperity. Today's Science in Parliament event is an opportunity for members to participate in the journey we are taking Queensland on to create jobs now and jobs for the future as part of our \$180 million investment through Advance Queensland. We also need to encourage more Queenslanders to pursue education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This is about skilling today's children in the jobs of the future.

We know that science and technology are changing our world at an ever-increasing pace. Driverless cars, personalised medicine, 3D printing and other transformations will have a huge impact on manufacturing, engineering, construction and food production. Every part of our lives will be touched by these transformations. We not only need to embrace these changes and make them work to our advantage but also need to be leading them—realising the benefits of being the driver on science and innovation and not just the end recipient while someone somewhere else reaps the rewards.

It is also important that all Queenslanders benefit from our changing economy. Last Friday while in Cairns I was delighted to announce two landmark funding programs to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers and help keep our best and brightest minds in Queensland. The Advance Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Fellowships and Advance Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander PhD Scholarships are designed to help address the underrepresentation of Indigenous researchers in the state by helping them establish and develop research careers. The research fellowships will provide funding of up to \$240,000 over three years and foster increased linkages, with closer collaboration between researchers and industry organisations. These linkages with industry will deliver tangible social, economic, environmental and regional benefits for Queensland in the next five years. The PhD scholarship program will provide up to \$120,000 over three years for scholars to undertake an applied PhD research project in collaboration with an industry or end-user organisation able to translate and apply the research in practical ways. Both programs will support innovative research aligned with Queensland science and research priorities.

This is the first time the Queensland government has offered full PhD scholarships, marking a momentous occasion for this state. It is globally recognised that we have an amazing pool of talented researchers in Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is committed to investing in our local talent to keep the bright ideas, innovators and entrepreneurs in Queensland for the benefit of our economy. I look forward to updating the House on these and other Advance Queensland initiatives into the future.