



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2015

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Smithsonian and Cooper Hewitt Fellowships**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.34 pm): In June, the Premier signed an agreement giving Queenslanders access to the expertise and networks of the world's largest research and museum complex. The new three-year memorandum of understanding between our state and the Smithsonian Institution was signed during the Premier's visit to Washington earlier this year. The Smithsonian Institution, founded in 1846, is regarded as one of the most prestigious in the world. Therefore, today it gives me great pleasure to invite talented researchers and teachers from across Queensland to apply for the 2015-16 Smithsonian and Cooper Hewitt fellowships. There are five of these fellowships on offer.

Each Queensland Smithsonian fellow will receive up to \$25,000 to spend between eight and 16 weeks at a Smithsonian museum or research centre, while the Queensland Cooper Hewitt fellows will receive up to \$20,000 to spend between eight and 12 weeks at the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in New York.

This is an opportunity of a lifetime. We are continuing the Smithsonian and Cooper Hewitt fellowship programs, because they are an investment in Queensland's future. They align with our Advance Queensland initiative to reinvigorate research, develop and harness new ideas and stimulate innovative thinking in our schools so that our students are better prepared to contribute to a knowledge-based economy.

Our Smithsonian fellows will collaborate with other researchers to advance studies on important issues that affect us, our industries and our natural environment. Our Cooper Hewitt fellows will work closely with teachers and educators in New York on a learning project in design-led education for students. On their return to Queensland, the successful recipients will share the knowledge they gained with other researchers, teachers and students.

The Palaszczuk government made a commitment to expand opportunities, to skill Queenslanders and retain our best and brightest, and we are delivering. Our \$360,000 agreement with the prestigious Smithsonian Institution will continue the fellowship programs until 2018. I look forward to updating the House when these important fellowships are awarded.