



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Advance Queensland, Science and Innovation**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (2.29 pm): It gives me great pleasure to update the House on the Palaszczuk government's \$180 million Advance Queensland initiative, because tonight I will be joining the Premier at the Advance Queensland Premier's innovation and investment reception here at Parliament House. This event will be attended by representatives of our state's innovation, start-up and investment communities as well as members of parliament. The evening will provide an opportunity to highlight innovation and the need to ingrain innovative thinking into our everyday lives.

Advance Queensland is creating an environment that welcomes and supports innovation and entrepreneurialism, which in turn encourages greater investment. We recognise that, while government support is important, industry is also able to achieve remarkable things independently. We know the best examples of innovation and entrepreneurialism emanate from those who are living and breathing it and that is why we are collaborating with industry as we develop our programs. Feedback and support during our co-design process with the start-up community in particular has been integral to creating a suite of programs that meet the sector's needs.

The Palaszczuk government recognises that digital disruption is already transforming our world at an ever-increasing pace. On Monday night I had the pleasure of attending the launch of a digital innovation course at QUT which aims to embrace and take advantage of digital disruption. I was joined at the event by the members for Murrumba and Mackay, and I acknowledge their strong interest in this area. Evidence of the importance of digital disruption can be found in the Committee for Economic Development of Australia's report *Australia's future workforce?*, which describes how the next wave of industrial revolution will fundamentally reshape global business. It notes the high probability that 40 per cent of Australia's workforce—more than five million people—could be replaced by automation within 10 to 20 years. These are staggering and challenging concepts. If Queensland is to maintain an internationally competitive economy we must act now to address the challenges and opportunities that we face.

Our vision is for Queensland to have a seamless innovation ecosystem where the best and brightest minds from around the country and across the world come together to generate great ideas and, crucially, get the support to translate them into compelling business cases for private investment. Advance Queensland will help us to do just that, and will help position Queensland as an attractive investment destination.