




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

World Science Festival

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.08 pm): In only a few days, from 9 to 13 March Brisbane will be in the international spotlight with the opening of the inaugural World Science Festival here in Brisbane. This will be one of the planet's most exciting, prestigious and innovative celebrations of science. In an exclusive three-year agreement between Queensland Museum and the World Science Festival in New York, Brisbane is only the second city in the world and the only city in the Asia-Pacific region to offer this outstanding event.

The festival will excite, inform and inspire people about the wonders of science, bringing some of the world's leading scientific and cultural thought leaders to our door. The 2016 program features more than 50 individual events and activities across the entire cultural precinct. There will be more than 100 big names in science from nine countries in attendance. We will welcome Emmy Award winning actor, author, science enthusiast and World Science Festival board member Alan Alda; Nobel Laureate physicist Brian Schmidt; pioneering marine biologist Sylvia Earle; celebrated astronaut Andy Thomas; and renowned physicist, best-selling author and festival co-founder Brian Greene. The World Science Festival gives Queensland a chance to put the focus on our region's latest research and scientific discoveries—work that is having a global impact and positioning our state as an innovation hub.

Queenslanders in Townsville and Chinchilla have already enjoyed World Science Festival activities, when regional components were presented earlier this month. I know that the Minister for Innovation went to Chinchilla for that very important event. Here in Brisbane, Street Science will present the wonders of science on 12 and 13 March in a family friendly free event with a weekend of activity. The Queensland government invests in the World Science Festival Brisbane to showcase our region and reinforce our reputation as a destination for big events. This is also an opportunity to deliver on the Queensland government's Advance Queensland initiative, putting Queensland at the forefront of innovation in an era of unprecedented global technological change. I encourage all members to attend this world-class event.