




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

World Science Festival Brisbane

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.04 pm): I have championed the need for better engagement with science, technology and innovation. It is essential to the diversification of our economy. Our future need not rely solely on resources, tourism and construction—as important as they will always be; our economy can be a knowledge-based economy.

Last week at the inaugural World Science Festival Brisbane I saw firsthand the enthusiasm and passion that Queenslanders have for science. This event has put Queensland and especially Brisbane up in lights. Not only was the science world's focus on our state; Queenslanders overwhelmingly showed their support for the festival. In fact, I am pleased to advise that more than 118,000 people took part in the amazing World Science Festival program—an outstanding result for this event. Congratulations to the minister, who spent most of her time at the World Science Festival. This was the first time the event has been held outside New York, where it was founded in 2008. Queensland Museum's exclusive six-year partnership with the World Science Festival New York is a significant achievement and will continue to deliver opportunities and attract visitors to Queensland.

The festival allowed Queenslanders of all ages to explore and celebrate the many ways science contributes to our lives and to our future. More than 50 events and activities were held across the cultural precinct and South Bank. Many events sold out, including performances of *Light Falls* and the Robot Engineer's Apprentice where young Queenslanders had the opportunity to learn coding. Street Science showcased a bustling family-friendly free event featuring turtle hatching, giant drones and wall-to-wall science experiments.

We were fortunate enough to host physicist Professor Brian Greene, a cofounder of the festival who helps make science accessible to everyday people. Queenslanders also learnt more about the life of Albert Einstein in the play *Dear Albert*, which was written by award-winning actor and author Alan Alda. Brisbane also welcomed astronaut Andy Thomas and Brian Schmidt to name just a few of the more than 100 presenters from nine countries. The festival extended to Townsville and Chinchilla, including sessions on Mars One—a one-way ticket to outer space, the use of technology in dinosaur digs and the photography of science.

The World Science Festival aligns with my government's Advance Queensland initiative—putting Queensland at the forefront of innovation in an era of unprecedented global technological change. The festival set the scene for the upcoming Advance Queensland innovation summit in April and demonstrated that Queenslanders are keen to learn more in these fields. I especially want to thank Minister Leeanne Enoch, who lived at South Bank for three to four days, for all of her hard work and a big thankyou to all of the ministers and members of parliament who attended this groundbreaking event held here in Brisbane. Also a big thankyou to the Chair of the Queensland Museum, David Conry, and the CEO, Professor Suzanne Miller. Without those two driving this event behind the scenes it just would not have happened, so a big a thankyou to them.