



Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Innovation and Investment Summit and Startup Festival; Advance Queensland

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.02 pm): As promised at the election last year, my government is restoring innovation as a central element of the government of Queensland. Next week my government will host Queensland's first-ever Innovation and Investment Summit in Brisbane, with Queensland leading the nation. The summit and festival will connect great local ideas with investors from across the country and of course overseas.

Modelled on the government's Northern Queensland Economic Summit in Cairns last year, next week's Innovation and Investment Summit and the Startup Festival have had an overwhelming response. In fact, both events are now booked out. With the summit we have over 757 people attending, and there is a waitlist; and for our Startup Festival we have 527 people, with 228 people on the waitlist. This shows the immense interest and opportunities in the Advance Queensland agenda.

Queensland is cementing itself as the national leader in innovation. We are the state to get a start and to be a start-up. Today the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business announced the first \$10 million round of the inaugural Advance Queensland Research Fellowships and PhD Scholarships. The Minister for Health also attended today's ceremony. The 54 recipients, here at Parliament House today, will help to drive innovation in new and existing industries, keeping and developing talent in Queensland. I am also pleased to report to the House that over 45 per cent of the recipients are women. They will play a key role in building our jobs and industries in the future. Their success will help us to attract leading researchers from overseas and interstate and deliver a brain gain for Queensland.

My trade mission to Hong Kong and China further galvanised my commitment to Advance Queensland. Significantly, we recently signed a major agreement with the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology that will open doors for Queensland researchers and entrepreneurs to work within China's dynamic science and technology incubators. With this funding we are supporting a broad range of innovative projects across diverse sectors such as health, mining, agriculture, environment, disaster management and energy.

My government is striving for new industries including biofuels and large-scale renewables. We also want to transform our traditional industries and produce opportunities for growth and job creation in whole new areas. I am pleased to say that these fellowships are a direct result of our commitment to listening to stakeholders and working collaboratively on solutions to problems. These fellowships will stand us in good stead to develop, retain and attract world-class talent here in Queensland as well as to turn these ideas into jobs for the future.