




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Advance Queensland Innovation and Investment Summit

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.42 am): I am proud to report that the inaugural Advance Queensland Innovation and Investment Summit was a great success. Innovation and investment are hallmarks of my government and we are determined to create new jobs and new opportunities for Queenslanders. I believe the summit confirms Queensland's position as Australia's start-up state.

The speakers drawn to the summit were exceptional, led by the co-founder of Apple, Steve Wozniak. I quote from one local innovator and investor who wrote to my office after the summit—

I attended for two full days the Innovation and Investment Summit, which I might add was world class and far exceeded all my expectations and those of my colleagues which attended. Your Government and Ministers need to be highly commended for what will become known in history as a 'Pivotal Moment' in this Startup journey for Queensland.

The summit attracted more than 1,400 attendees over three days. About 70 international delegates representing 17 countries including China, France, Germany, Japan, Singapore, USA, UAE and India and as far afield as the United Kingdom and Zambia attended. To support business matching and investment, a dedicated concierge service was made available to all delegates and over 140 meetings were arranged, bringing together start-ups, investors and international delegates with representatives from Queensland business and industry.

I am proud to say that we also made three very important announcements for Queensland over the course of the summit. Firstly, we announced the establishment of a start-up and innovation precinct in Fortitude Valley to bring together under one roof Queensland entrepreneurs, start-ups, incubators, investors and mentors. Secondly, we announced the launch of the Hot DesQ program, an international campaign to attract start-ups to Queensland. The minister launched Hot DesQ in her recent trade mission to the United States. Thirdly, we announced a partnership between the Queensland government and international event company Myriad to stage an innovation and start-up festival in Queensland for the next three years, beating New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

These three key announcements will ensure that the international spotlight continues to shine on Queensland's innovation, entrepreneurial and start-up sectors. My government is committed to ongoing investment in innovation across Queensland, because we know through innovation we can generate more jobs. I am thrilled with the results of the summit and look forward to maintaining the momentum.

In terms of new investment, I am also pleased to confirm that Sigma Pharmaceuticals is announcing today the construction of a new \$65 million distribution centre at Berrinba. The construction of the new 15,000-square-metre distribution centre will create up to 50 jobs during its construction. Importantly, the centre will use solar energy to run the temperature controlled facility. This investment is a further commitment of confidence in Queensland, and I thank Sigma Pharmaceuticals through its managing director and CEO, Mark Hopper, for making that commitment. I am pleased to say that Mr Hopper is in the gallery today. Well done and thank you for your investment and confidence in Queensland.