




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Science and Innovation

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (10.09 am): The Palaszczuk government understands the role that innovation will play in keeping Queensland's economy strong and creating the knowledge-based jobs of future. That is why we have included the Advance Queensland Innovative Partnerships and Innovation Challenges programs within our \$108 million Advance Queensland initiative. Both programs are part of the \$46 million Future Jobs Strategy and support collaborative research projects involving both research organisations and industry or businesses to address opportunities and challenges in high-growth markets.

The innovation partnerships program offers grants of up to \$1.5 million to Queensland research organisations to undertake collaborative research projects with industry or small to medium sized enterprises. Projects must address one of the Queensland's science and research priorities such as agriculture, engineering, climate change, clean energy, biotechnology and advanced manufacturing. The innovation partnerships program is designed to increase the level of collaboration between industry, small to medium enterprise and researchers. The program will boost the productivity growth and competitiveness of existing industries while also accelerating the development of emerging industries and technologies where Queensland could have comparative advantage in global markets, for instance, in the biofuels sector. Finally, the innovations partnerships program will increase the speed and scale of the translation of our science and research into new products, services and business models that could help drive diversification of our economy and grow local jobs.

The first round of the innovation partnerships opened in November last year and close this Friday, 26 February. The innovation challenges program will be launched in the coming months. Under this program, grants of up to \$3 million will be awarded to collaborative projects that address the significant scientific and technological challenges currently faced by Queensland. SMEs, start-ups, corporates and research organisations will be invited to partner on projects to find breakthrough solutions. While these solutions may help to solve major health, economic or environmental challenges facing the state, they will also develop technologies that can have application globally, bringing new jobs and prosperity to Queensland.

More information on the innovation challenges program will be released in the near future on the Advance Queensland website. The Advance Queensland innovation and science agenda is the Palaszczuk government's plan to create jobs now and jobs for the future.