




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Advance Queensland, Innovation

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (10.23 am): We are at an exciting but critical juncture in our state's economy and our state's history. We know that the world is changing at an ever-increasing pace, and we know that new industries and economies are emerging and that our existing ones are changing. Only an innovative approach will create the spark for employment now, while preparing our state for the jobs and industries of the future. That is precisely what the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland innovation and jobs plan is delivering. It was our Premier who had the vision to put Advance Queensland at the heart of the government's agenda to embrace and foster the innovation movement in our state. It was our government that saw the coming crossroads for our economy and set about putting together a plan to put Queensland at the forefront of that movement—unlike those opposite, who continue to be fixated on bashing unions and holding a death grip on their four-pillar plan.

As a result of the hard work of the Palaszczuk government and the great foundation that our state has inherited from previous Smart State investment, we are in a great position to take advantage of the shift towards a knowledge economy. This is important because the knowledge economy is not just on the horizon anymore; it has arrived and our state is primed to make the most of the opportunities before us. The Palaszczuk government is shifting the focus for researchers, industry, small business and entrepreneurs. Our programs are bringing these amazing minds together to take great ideas and turn them into products and services, unlocking their potential to make an impact on global markets.

If we are truly to be global leaders within this innovation movement, we need everyone to get involved. Our state needs to be united in its focus to drive innovation in every aspect of our lives. Universities and researchers need to work closely with industry to create the next big global idea. Those working in our traditional industries need to continue to embrace innovation and look at new ways to stand on the global market. Our investors have to be prepared to take risks, to back our start-ups and entrepreneurs who may fail on the journey to striking the idea that could change people's lives forever. As a community, we have to shift the conversations we have with our young people to help them prepare for and embrace all the possibilities of the future.

That is why next week's Advance Queensland Innovation and Investment Summit is a crucial pivot point in our conversations about the direction we are headed as a state. The Palaszczuk government is seizing these opportunities, understanding the impact of changes globally and understanding that we are at this special time in the world's history and our state's history. I am proud to be part of a government which is not focused on the past and which is not dredging up old policies while holding that death grip on the four pillars. We are embracing innovation. I encourage everyone in this House from all parties and all sides to be part of the innovation movement.