




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Open Worldwide Innovation Network

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (2.29 pm): Since being elected last year, the Palaszczuk government has been focused on giving Queensland businesses the best opportunity to grow, thrive and create jobs. It is this government that has a clear agenda for revitalising our traditional industries while seeking out new paths to the industries of the future. We have been working hard to build global connections that will deliver both the opportunity for Queensland businesses to showcase their products and services on the international stage and to bring some of the world's best talent to our state.

At the heart of all of this work has been a clear focus on innovation. I am delighted to advise the House that Queensland has become an executive member of a leading global innovation network. During my trade mission to the United States last week, I signed an agreement for our state to join the Open Worldwide Innovation Network. This not-for-profit network, established by Texas A&M University in 2013, promotes international research collaboration, entrepreneurship and technology commercialisation. Membership will provide innovative Queensland businesses and entrepreneurs with access to international partners and markets. Members of the network include Belgium's Foreign Trade and Export Agency, one of Europe's most dynamic innovation hubs, and the commercialisation arm of Tsinghua University, one of China's top universities.

Queensland is internationally recognised for the quality and innovation of our scientific research and development. We are at the cutting edge of research on agricultural, medical and industrial biotechnology, nanotechnology, neuroscience, UAVs, tropical health and medicine. But one of our key challenges is to commercialise our research in the global marketplace. Membership of the Open Worldwide Innovation Network provides another important avenue for our Queensland scientists, innovators and entrepreneurs to take their ideas and turn them into commercially viable products and services. It provides Queensland business with international partners in the US, Europe and China who have substantial local connectivity, networks, relationships and that all-important local market knowledge. It also opens the door to more joint ventures, strategic partnerships and better market access. The Palaszczuk government is opening doors to greater collaboration and opportunities for our start-ups and small businesses, universities, researchers and technology businesses both domestically and on the global stage.