



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**

**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2016

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Hot DesQ**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (9.54 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to developing a flourishing innovation and entrepreneurial culture in Queensland. We are achieving this through our \$180 million Advance Queensland innovation and jobs plan, which offers a range of funding programs to support entrepreneurs, innovators and start-ups. One program designed to boost the maturity of our start-up sector is the \$8 million Hot DesQ initiative which the Premier launched at the extremely successful Advance Queensland Innovation and Investment Summit two weeks ago.

During my trade mission to the United States last week, it was my honour to host the international launch of Hot DesQ at Plug and Play in Silicon Valley. Combining a funding program with key selling points of our state's proximity to Asian markets and our fantastic lifestyle, Hot DesQ aims to attract interstate and international start-ups to set up shop in Queensland to help accelerate the growth of our start-up ecosystem. The program provides established entrepreneurial talent with the opportunity to add their start-up smarts to Queensland's natural industry strengths such as life sciences and biotech, agriculture and food tech, mining and energy, tropical expertise, software and the creative industries.

In addition to receiving funding of up to \$100,000, successful applicants will be able to select from a range of established start-up communities in places such as the Gold and Sunshine coasts, Toowoomba, Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane to establish their operations. They will be provided with free co-working space and access to the broader start-up network for six months. These entrepreneurs will become active members of our start-up community and bring with them knowledge to help our local talent and start-ups prepare for expansion into global markets.

The response from entrepreneurs and investors at the international launch was overwhelmingly positive. I was inundated with questions about the initiative and all the natural advantages our state has to offer international start-ups. The Hot DesQ initiative received another significant boost after my department secured an exclusive showcase opportunity this week at one of the world's largest start-up events, Disrupt New York. A key event at Disrupt New York was Startup Battlefield, which brought the world's top early stage start-ups together to take part in a pitching competition for the coveted Disrupt Cup and potentially millions of dollars from investors. I can announce that one of the 25 finalists in the Startup Battlefield, Timelooperapp, was selected this morning to be the very first start-up to secure Hot DesQ funding to set up in Queensland. As the team from New York said this morning, there is no better place to be. The Palaszczuk government has a plan for Queensland's economy now and in the future to ensure we are Australia's start-up state.