




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (9.30 pm): I begin by thanking all the members of the committee, my directors-general, the hardworking public servants of my department and, of course, the hardworking members of my ministerial staff. I am delighted to have another opportunity to talk about how the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland initiative and the Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy will deliver jobs for Queensland. Advance Queensland is about building the future of our state. The shifting world economy means we have to change if we are to remain globally competitive. For Queensland to excel, we have to innovate to make our existing industries stronger and develop new industries to create the jobs of the future.

Therefore, it is disappointing to have to once again correct misleading claims made by the member for Mount Ommaney when it comes to expenditure for Advance Queensland and the jobs the initiative has created. The correct numbers were made clear at the estimates hearing and I table the relevant page from *Hansard* that explicitly outlines the expenditure for the initiative. The day following the estimates hearing I issued a media statement, which I also table, to clarify the misleading figures, yet they were repeated again today by the member for Mount Ommaney in this House.

Tabled paper: Extract from the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee transcript (proof) of public estimates hearing on 26 July 2016, p 72 [[1257](#)].

Tabled paper: Media release, undated, from the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business, Hon. Leeanne Enoch, titled 'LNP misleading public on innovation outcomes' [[1258](#)].

I am concerned that the member for Mount Ommaney continues to deliberately mislead the House. I will be writing to Mr Speaker in accordance with standing order 269 to request that the matter be referred to the Ethics Committee.

It is clear that the LNP does not believe in science or innovation, so let us see how they go with the maths. I will outline it one more time. For the benefit of the member for Mount Ommaney, the funding of \$8.29 million allocated from the Advance Queensland initiative has created 121 direct jobs. A further \$25.589 million has been committed from the 2015-16 budget for Advance Queensland, which will directly create a further 327 jobs. The equation is pretty simple: the total funding commitment of \$33.879 million will directly create a total of 448 jobs. In addition, this investment will leverage a further \$58 million in private sector investment for our state.

There is much more to come. Advance Queensland has attracted global companies such as Johnson & Johnson, Siemens, Emory University and Boeing to set up or expand their operations in Queensland. In 2015 Boeing invested US\$4.35 billion globally in R and D. The Palaszczuk government wants to see a greater proportion of that money being spent right here in Queensland, despite the LNP's attempts to block this. By their actions, the LNP is broadcasting to the world that Queensland would stop innovating and building the new economy if they were indeed in government. They are effectively telling Queensland innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers and small businesses that have sought to

be part of the Advance Queensland innovation movement that they do not deserve the support they are receiving.

Today the member for Mount Ommaney stood in this place and quite rightly extolled the virtues of Hear and Say and the excellent work it is doing to help thousands of Queenslanders. I remind the member for Mount Ommaney that Hear and Say received nearly \$50,000 of Advance Queensland funding through a Knowledge Transfer Partnerships grant, in partnership with QUT. That funding is being used to create a next-generation prosthetic ear for children with microtia, using advanced 3D computer modelling and printing technology. Through their actions on this committee, the LNP is trying to block the type of funding that Hear and Say receives.

The LNP is not just intent on trying to block Advance Queensland; it also wants to deny small businesses support and assistance to help them start, grow and employ. Failing to support programs to be delivered by our Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy will negatively impact on Queensland's 406,000 small businesses. It will stop the rollout of programs designed to increase the resilience of early-stage small businesses and help establish small businesses to grow and thrive. It will also deny small businesses critical support to help them enter the digital economy.

The opposition talks about small business being the engine room of the economy, yet by denying small businesses the support they deserve its actions speak far more loudly. The LNP opposition has presented no plan for small business and no plan for innovation, science or the digital economy. In fact, the silence is deafening. In stark contrast, the Palaszczuk government is setting an absolutely cracking pace to advance Queensland.