




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Advance Queensland

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (3.20 pm): It is ironic to hear those opposite talk about consultation. I do not think that was part of their foundation in any way whatsoever. I rise to talk about the Advance Queensland initiative, which is delivering for Queenslanders now while ensuring future generations of Queenslanders can aspire to the same quality of life we enjoy today.

The massive changes we are seeing in the global economy mean that we have to be prepared to respond to disruption, meet different challenges and make the most of the opportunities presented by the new economy. The Advance Queensland initiative is about putting in place the economic framework to deliver benefits to existing industries and businesses while also preparing our state for the industries of the future. Grants and partnerships entered into through Advance Queensland have so far directly created or will directly create nearly 450 long-term sustainable jobs—121 now and a further 327 in the years to come. This investment has also attracted global companies such as Johnson & Johnson, Siemens, Emory and Boeing to set up or expand their operations in Queensland.

The job numbers I have outlined today are just the beginning. Advance Queensland has been co-designed with stakeholders—that is called consultation—from the business, start-up and research communities and based on international evidence of what has worked overseas. International programs similar to those running under the Advance Queensland initiative have shown strong long-term results. For example, in the United States, companies that participated in the Small Business Innovation Research program—a program I launched last month—generated five times as many new jobs as non-SBIR funded companies over a 10-year period. In the UK, the Knowledge Transfer Partnerships program—a program we launched earlier this year that has already seen 22 Queensland businesses employ a researcher to work on their innovative idea, with more soon to be announced—has generated returns to the economy eight times greater than the initial government investment. Just as importantly, a range of indirect jobs will continue to be created from this investment as new businesses, products and services and industries are established and grow.

We do not know where the next big idea is coming from. Just look at two of the biggest global companies: Google was created in a garage and Facebook in a college dorm. As this new industrial revolution continues to gather pace, we have to provide Queensland entrepreneurs with the opportunity to pursue their ideas, wherever that may take them. That is exactly what the Palaszczuk government is doing through our Advance Queensland initiative.

If we compare this with the performance of the former government we see that their investment in innovation, science and job creation amounted to only \$7.224 million in the whole three years, creating 41.4 jobs. We have invested four times as much in the first year of AQ but have already created 10 times as many jobs.