



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**

**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Advance Queensland Innovation Partnerships**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (10.10 am): Queensland is home to some of the country's premier universities and research institutions, recognised the world over for the quality and scope of their work. Through the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland initiative we have established the Innovation Partnerships program to support Queensland researchers and industry to undertake collaborative projects that will deliver tangible benefits for Queensland, be they economic, environmental or social outcomes.

Our Advance Queensland Innovation Partnerships program is designed to: boost productivity, growth and the competitiveness of existing industries; accelerate the emergence of developing industries; and increase the speed and scale of translation of our science and research into new products, services and business models that can help drive economic and jobs growth in Queensland.

Once again, we saw a huge response to an Advance Queensland funding program, with more than 90 collaborative projects put forward for funding. The collaborative nature of the project—with researchers working alongside industry partners—meant that the evaluation process for applicants required very careful consideration.

Today, I am pleased to announce that 15 projects have been successful under the first round of funding and will receive a total government investment of \$9.65 million. In addition, to the Palaszczuk government's investment, the successful recipients and their project partners are contributing a further \$15 million towards these projects. This is a boost of nearly \$25 million for science research and development in Queensland, keeping us ahead of the pack. The projects funded will address issues in priority areas such as agriculture, engineering, climate change, clean energy, biotechnology and advanced manufacturing.

I will provide the House with two examples of how this Advance Queensland funding will contribute to health outcomes for Queenslanders. Professor Ros Boyd from the Queensland Cerebral Palsy and Rehabilitation Research Centre at the University of Queensland will use the funding to develop new tools for the early detection of cerebral palsy in babies to improve health outcomes for children born with the condition. Professor Dietmar Hutmacher from the Queensland University of Technology will partner with the Transitional Research Institute, Biofabrication Design Solutions, 3D Industries and 3D Space Labs to develop world-first technology around breast scaffolds for reconstructive surgery, delivering significant benefits for women who have had breast cancer.

These projects demonstrate the innovative research being undertaken by Queensland researchers and the important partnerships being developed with industry to translate that research into practical outcomes for Queenslanders. These projects are about creating jobs and turning ideas into reality, which is at the heart of our innovation agenda. In addition, these partnerships are examples of some of the life-changing benefits that the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland program will deliver not just to our state and to our country but to the world.