



Speech By  
**Jennifer Howard**


**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Ipswich Electorate, Advance Queensland

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (7.02 pm): I rise to speak about Advance Queensland, part of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to diversifying the Queensland economy and driving innovation led growth. Advance Queensland is about creating and sustaining jobs now and into the future. It is about putting into action amazing ideas to develop new services and products that will improve Queenslanders' lives. Several Advance Queensland programs have recently been launched in Ipswich and are showing great promise in delivering exciting commercial opportunities, diversifying the local economy and attracting high value jobs to the area.

Last week Minister Leeanne Enoch came to Ipswich's Fire Station 101 to announce \$500,000 in Advancing Regional Innovation Program, ARIP, funding for Ipswich and West Moreton over three years. I take this opportunity to thank Minister Enoch for this welcome opportunity for Ipswich. The government's contribution will be matched by nine collaborative partners to develop 30 entrepreneurial talent development programs targeting student entrepreneurs and fostering stronger engagement and collaboration between start-ups and local industries. We have partners from government, education and business all collaborating to rapidly drive innovation in Ipswich—for example, the Motor Trades Association of Queensland group which is helping to innovate and commercialise new technologies in the automated industry through its automotive innovation hub, MTAiQ, the first of its kind in Australia.

Another Advance Queensland initiative, the Ignite Ideas program, is helping small to medium Queensland businesses commercialise innovative ideas that generate jobs. One of the recipients, Elevare Energy, has developed smart battery technology that leverages artificial intelligence. Elevare has recently signed up local Ipswich business, Llewellyn Motors, to trial its smart batteries over a period of six months, helping Llewellyn Motors to reduce its peak demand electricity costs across its dealerships in Ipswich. Elevare will take its product to the next level through this funding and has plans to launch its smart batteries across Australia in 2018 and open offices in China, the USA and Europe. At a time when businesses across Queensland are finding it difficult to keep up with energy costs, innovative start-ups like Elevare can provide innovative solutions to help drive commercial energy costs down and reduce the state's carbon footprint.

Through Advance Queensland's Hot DesQ program, the Palaszczuk government is actively promoting a start-up culture by inviting international and interstate entrepreneurial talent to relocate to Queensland. We are now being seen as an exciting destination for start-up enterprises. Two of these start-ups have recently set up shop in Ipswich at Fire Station 101 as part of the Hot DesQ program: Point Zero from New Zealand and Micropowerlabs from Singapore and Pakistan.

Last week I had the pleasure of participating in a virtual cafe through the Advancing Women in Business program. These cafes allow female entrepreneurs to connect and collaborate with other businesswomen across six locations in Queensland. These fantastic programs will see the Queensland economy shift into a more economically diverse space which can tap into Queenslanders' amazing potential for generating innovative ideas and products.