




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 22 March 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

World Science Festival Brisbane

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (2.34 pm): It gives me great pleasure to update the House on the World Science Festival Brisbane which kicked off today. I was very pleased to be able to represent the Premier at the official launch this morning. Last year when the Palaszczuk government secured the exclusive rights to host World Science Festival Brisbane it was a major coup as it was the first time the World Science Festival was held outside of New York. This year's festival, which is on until Sunday, builds on the momentum of the inaugural event, one that injected more than \$5 million into the Queensland economy.

As science minister, I have already been involved in World Science Festival Brisbane regional program events in Gladstone and Toowoomba, and the excitement generated among the locals was absolutely incredible. The Palaszczuk government will continue to attract major drawcard events—such as the World Science Festival and our innovation and investment event, Myriad, the sequel to the 2016 Advance Queensland summit—because Queensland is where it is happening. With a range of free and ticketed events, the World Science Festival Brisbane has something for everyone. From A Live Presentation of *2001: A Space Odyssey* to the pairing of wine and music, taxidermy and of course Street Science, this five-day celebration of science will create a buzz in Queensland.

Science is everywhere and is happening all around us. From making a phone call to building a house, science forms part of everything that we do. The Palaszczuk government is committed to fostering the right environment for scientific research to thrive and be commercialised right here in Queensland through our \$405 million whole-of-government Advance Queensland initiative. We are doing this because we know the kinds of jobs we require to meet the needs of our state in the future are going to need new skills in STEM—science, technology, engineering and maths. Encouraging our young people to pursue a career in STEM fields is a challenge that the Palaszczuk government is committed to tackling. The World Science Festival demonstrates to students, parents and everyone in the community how exciting and important science and STEM is to our future. That is what the festival is all about—an opportunity for people to get more involved with STEM and connect with great science and even greater scientists.