



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 May 2017

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Advance Queensland**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (10.03 am): In the 2015-16 budget we launched the Advance Queensland initiative to harness innovation, foster collaboration, support start-ups, drive productivity improvements and, most importantly, create jobs in our state. Expanding on our election commitment to deliver a \$50 million innovation program, we established a \$180 million suite of initiatives to diversify the economy and usher our state into the knowledge economy.

Examining world best practice and tapping into the knowledge of local talent, we co-designed a broad suite of programs to ignite the entrepreneurial spirit in our state to turn great ideas and research into commercial reality. Over the first 12 months of the program we set a cracking pace in delivering programs to solve challenges, take ideas to market, attract investment, build economic opportunities and create jobs. We did this because we knew that, if we did not act immediately, it would be our children and the generations to come who would be left lagging behind the rest of the world.

Then, in last year's budget, the Palaszczuk government accelerated the Advance Queensland program, turning it into a \$405 million whole-of-government initiative. This new investment propelled the transformation we began with the launch of Advance Queensland and put in place the foundation to create a bright and prosperous future for young and old.

It must be noted at this point that all of this has been achieved in less than two years despite the savage cuts to support research and innovation in Queensland which we saw under the previous Newman-Nicholls government—cuts headlined by ripping \$50 million from the Innovation and Science Division in Tim Nicholls's very first budget as treasurer, including slashing more than \$20 million of Smart State grants funding.

It is Labor who understands the need to diversify our economy. It is Labor who is supporting our start-ups and small businesses. It is Labor who is fostering collaboration between researchers and industry and it is Labor who is keeping our state at the forefront of a changing global economy. Most importantly, it is Labor who is delivering.