



Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Hot DesQ

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (2.38 pm): I am pleased to update the House on the Palaszczuk government's Australian first Hot DesQ program, which continues to attract successful international and interstate start-ups to Queensland and create jobs. Hot DesQ offers world-class early-stage and established start-ups, including successful Australian expats, the chance to base themselves in Queensland, share their knowledge, experience and ideas, and give back to the local start-up community. The program is part of our \$405 million whole-of-government Advance Queensland initiative with the inaugural 25 recipients announced last October. Although round 1 is not yet finished, we already know Hot DesQ participants have employed Queenslanders, appointed interns, attended numerous start-up events and facilitated international business connections on behalf of other Queensland start-ups.

Hot DesQ recipients have been located in regional centres like Cairns and the Sunshine Coast to help local start-ups in these regions develop. In addition, several Hot DesQ recipients have been travelling to regional Queensland through the Hot Entrepreneurs program. One of them, Ingrid Rodriguez from Eikonic—an award-winning global research and development company—recently indicated that she will remain in Queensland with the intent of hiring a Queensland based head of corporate and business development and a Queensland based executive assistant in the next six to 12 months. Six regions currently have co-working spaces registered as potential hosts for Hot DesQ recipients: Cairns, Townsville, Toowoomba, Ipswich and the Gold and Sunshine Coasts, with more to potentially follow.

Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland chief executive officer Stephen Tait stays that he is hugely impressed with the calibre of start-ups being attracted to Queensland, a number of whom are working from CCIQ's collaborate co-working space. According to Mr Tait, Hot DesQ start-ups are helping cement this state's position as a global leader in medical and advanced manufacturing industries and artificial intelligence.

There is a buzz of excitement in Queensland about this government's collaborative attitude towards entrepreneurialism, as highlighted by a 60 per cent increase in the number of applications for Hot DesQ round 2. Round 2 applicants have expressed interest in a range of locations across the state, which indicates that they see the innovation potential of regional Queensland.