



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Advance Queensland**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (2.20 pm): The Palaszczuk government is driving a future focused agenda through our \$420 million whole-of-government Advance Queensland initiative. Launched just over two years ago, Advance Queensland is establishing a solid foundation for the Palaszczuk government's long-term vision of diversifying our economy and investing in our innovators as they build more jobs of the future. As at the end of June, we committed more than \$205 million of this investment to back 1,650 innovators across Queensland. Their projects are driving 4,821 jobs. These projects not only have economic benefits; they are also making life better for Queenslanders. This funding is helping make our industries stronger, such as through more efficient sugar mills and improving access to bauxite reserves. We are funding vital new research to deliver greater insight into the health of our iconic Great Barrier Reef. We are preparing our kids for the future—increasing the numbers studying critical subjects in maths and science as well as opening up the possibility of starting their own business. The funding is for projects that transform lives such as tackling cancer and heart disease.

Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas funding, for example, is enabling a Queensland company to complete the final step required before beginning human trials with a revolutionary artificial heart. Queensland engineer Dr Daniel Timms, the CEO and chief technology officer of both Australian and US based BiVACOR, has been working on the BiVACOR artificial heart for more than 15 years. Dr Timms is using the \$250,000 Ignite Ideas funding to develop a wearable controller to replace the carry-on suitcase sized one currently being used. BiVACOR is a game-changing innovation that promises a lifeline to people suffering from heart failure but who are unable to receive a donor heart. With the backing of Ignite Ideas funding, Dr Timms aims to have a prototype controller for preclinical use by the end of next year.

Under the Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas program, this government has so far supported more than 200 Queensland businesses through \$26.5 million of Ignite Ideas Funding over three rounds of the program's merit based assessment process, driving more than a thousand jobs. Advance Queensland has also leveraged more than \$130 million in co-investment from partners outside of the Queensland government. We are committed to making sure that stakeholders have skin in the game. Already more than 4,000 young entrepreneurs have learned the skills they need to pursue those ideas.

Advance Queensland will continue investing in small businesses to help them innovate, thrive and survive. We will continue to work with local entrepreneurs, small business operators, business leaders, councils, universities and communities across the state to foster innovation. We are attracting start-ups from around Australia and the world through the Hot DesQ program. I am excited by the high calibre of international and interstate start-ups being introduced into our start-up ecosystem under this program. In addition, the \$40 million Industry Attraction Fund is supporting projects in traditional and emerging industries such as advanced manufacturing, defence and aerospace, and mining equipment.

The Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland investment has put in place the foundation so that Queenslanders, both young and old, can take advantage of every opportunity available in a global knowledge economy. We know the world is changing fast. We also know Advance Queensland is enabling Queenslanders not just to keep up but to stride ahead.