



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **World Science Festival Brisbane**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerst—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.05 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to driving our state forward toward new opportunities. We know that increasingly the new jobs and careers that are being created in our state have a focus on science, technology, engineering and math skills, so engaging more young Queenslanders, their families and their communities in the wonder of science and promoting the possibilities a STEM career can offer is incredibly important.

To help achieve this, once again the Palaszczuk government is showcasing Queensland as an international destination for scientific ideas, innovation and arts by hosting a festival that continues to capture the world's imagination: World Science Festival Brisbane. The World Science Festival Brisbane is an event which is unparalleled in the Southern Hemisphere and is the only world science festival event held outside of New York.

Now in its third year, the festival is continuing to go from strength to strength, with attendance at the event growing from 120,000 in its first year to 182,000 last year. It promises to be even bigger this year. The mission of World Science Festival Brisbane is to take science out of the lab and into the streets of our Queensland cities and towns. The World Science Festival enables Queensland communities to engage with science and encourages our schoolchildren to consider STEM careers.

I was delighted to join the member for Gladstone and thousands of students and community members at the Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre last weekend to kickstart this incredible celebration of science. As well as Gladstone, regional events are being held in Chinchilla, Toowoomba, Townsville and, for the first time, Ipswich. The festival arrives in Brisbane at the South Bank cultural precinct from 21 to 25 March 2018 and will attract tens of thousands of Queenslanders as well as national and international visitors who will inject millions of dollars into the Queensland economy.

In 2018 the festival continues to promote the creative benefits of collaboration between the sciences and the arts with the theme 'Humanity'. The centrepiece event is the world premiere of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind in Concert*. It celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Steven Spielberg sci-fi movie masterpiece featuring a performance by the 84-piece Queensland Festival Philharmonic Orchestra and the 80-voice Resonance of Birralee choir. There will also be free street science activities in the Cultural Forecourt at South Bank Parklands to entertain and inspire. The success of the World Science Festival Brisbane demonstrates the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland initiative in action. We are making science more accessible for all Queenslanders and further developing our innovative and exciting knowledge based economy.