




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Toowoomba Trades Hall

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (9.49 am): It gives me great pleasure to update the House on the \$100,000 investment the Queensland government is providing for the restoration of the heritage listed Toowoomba Trades Hall. The Toowoomba Trades Hall is a monument to the achievements of workers and the mighty trade union movement in Queensland. The building demonstrates the growth of the labour movement and organisation of workers in Toowoomba during the 20th century and illustrates the city's longstanding historical role as the industrial centre of the Darling Downs.

Like other Queensland cities with significant industrial components to their economy, Toowoomba became a regional centre for union activity. The building has been a central gathering place for unions and the labour movement since its opening. Built in 1934, the building is believed to be Queensland's oldest surviving purpose-built trades hall. Since opening its doors, the building has cemented its place in the community. Not only has the building been used as a meeting place for trade unions; many Toowoomba locals have utilised the much needed hall over the years.

Next week we will be governing from Toowoomba and I will be pleased to see the works. With the Queensland government's support, the building's owners, the Trades Hall Board Toowoomba, will repair the building's roof and ceiling, the hall's stage and the external stairs. The hall will be opened up to its original size. In addition to this, a much needed upgrade to the kitchen will also be completed. This work will preserve the building for many years to come and will enable the community to have better access to, and enjoyment of, this important Toowoomba landmark.