




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Ignite Ideas Fund

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.06 pm): I rise today to highlight the latest grants program failure by this fiscally incompetent government and the Minister for Innovation. First I will give a bit of history. We have had the \$6 million Hot DesQ program axed. It was supposed to bring the best and brightest into the state from interstate and overseas. At estimates last year I asked the director-general if the recipients were still in Queensland. The director-general said—

There are a number that have stayed on. Of course, others have returned to where they were previously, having discharged their responsibilities contractually with the state.

They came, they took our money and they left. It has been axed. Then there is the \$2.6 million small business innovation fund, also axed. It involved 22 grants, half to overseas and interstate companies—grants that were given to companies that no longer even exist. On 16 June last year the minister said—

Look, I actually think this program could have been run better. I think there is a better use of the money in a different project.

I agree. It has been axed. It is gone. The Venturer Program, costing \$124,000, took start-up companies on a trip to de-stress themselves—which possibly had something to do with the grant process they had been through to get their start-ups up and running to start with. We all remember the ill-fated Myriad program and the jumbo full of entrepreneurs who flew into the country. That has been axed. It is gone. We presently have a business development fund grant under investigation by the CCC.

The latest victim of this government's incompetence appears to be the Ignite Ideas Fund. I table electronically a screenshot of the minister's Advance Queensland website that indicates the Ignite Ideas Fund is under review—we all know what that means—and round 6 funding has been delayed, after businesses spent months of their own time preparing grant applications at great expense.

Tabled paper: Extract from advance.qld.gov.au website titled 'Ignite Ideas Fund' [963](#).

They have heard nothing. I have had numerous calls from businesses saying, 'What is going on?' It seems like the Ignite Ideas Fund has flamed out under Minister Jones, just like all her other programs. Is this fund being reprioritised? Is that what is happening here? Has it been axed or has the government simply given up on supporting Queensland businesses?

We know from the Small Business Adaptation Grants that the government announced a few weeks ago that they do not look at priorities when giving out grants. It is 'first in, best dressed' with this government. Most of their grants programs do not work. This government is fiscally incompetent and really needs to be turfed out on 31 October.