



Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

World Science Festival

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.11 am): World Science Festival Brisbane is launching today and will run until Sunday. Following the Brisbane program, the festival is hitting the road and presenting events across regional Queensland as part of our World Science Festival Queensland program. It is exciting to see the festival back this year after its absence due to COVID-19 last year. Due to the hard work of all Queenslanders we are once again able to see this kind of event take place.

Ours is the only World Science Festival held outside of New York, and it is proudly supported by the Palaszczuk government with a \$3 million investment each year. Since the festival first launched in 2016, it has attracted more than 700,000 visitors, injecting more than \$32 million into our state's economy and spotlighting our state as both a tourist destination and a thriving knowledge economy.

World Science Festival Brisbane 2021, presented by Queensland Museum, offers an exciting mix of science in an innovative new format with an inspiring program of ideas, performances and discussions. This year, World Science Festival is also offering an online program alongside its live events, with new livestreaming options that make the festival more accessible to more Queenslanders, including the new City of Science which will deliver science surprises in 86 events across 10 Brisbane precincts over the next five days. The festival will once again connect beyond Brisbane to Chinchilla, Gladstone, Toowoomba, Townsville and Ipswich.

Since the World Science Festival Queensland program began in these regional locations, 126 events and performances have been delivered, which have been attended by almost 43,000 people. This includes more than 16,000 attendees in Gladstone and more than 12,500 in Chinchilla since the beginning of the program. Importantly, World Science Festival Brisbane and World Science Festival Queensland programming has supported more than 236,000 visitor nights since 2016, which is great news for local tourism.

The return of the festival in 2021 will continue to generate great enthusiasm and tourism opportunities for businesses in regional Queensland. Immersing Queenslanders in a world of science, technology, engineering and mathematics is a wonderful way to get Queensland communities engaged and excited about STEM, as well as generate vital economic activity. The arts and cultural sector are key to delivering our plan for economic recovery, each year injecting \$8.5 billion into the state's economy and supporting more than 92,000 jobs for Queenslanders right across the state. I encourage everyone to get out to see the World Science Festival over the next five days here in Brisbane and across Queensland and be immersed in the wonders of science.