



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**World Science Festival Brisbane**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.08 am): As Queensland heads toward open borders under our vaccine plan, I am excited to announce the return of World Science Festival Brisbane in March 2022. Next year, World Science Festival Brisbane will be back from 9-13 March with its dynamic mix of scientific surprises and fun discoveries, along with an exciting new partnership with Curiosity Brisbane, which will take place from 9-20 March.

This expanded 2022 World Science Festival Brisbane, presented by the Queensland Museum Network, will enable more Queenslanders to connect with the latest wonders of science in Brisbane and beyond. With the release of the Queensland COVID vaccine plan we are reminded again of the importance of science in all our lives as well as all of the wonderful events that can take place in our state with more people vaccinated. The Palaszczuk government is providing \$9 million for the next three World Science Festivals. It is so exciting to see this popular festival continue and present creative solutions for our planet's current and future challenges.

Throughout 2022 the World Science Festival will take place in Townsville in May, Gladstone in June, Chinchilla in July, Ipswich in September and Toowoomba in October. The full program will be announced in early 2022, but I can reveal that festival favourites like The Hatchery: Turtle Conservation Experience and City of Science will be back next year, along with the return of an engaging online program which will continue to attract visitors from across the globe. The 2022 event follows the success of this year's World Science Festival, which has seen more than 120,000 visitors engaging in the community in Brisbane, Townsville, Chinchilla, Gladstone and Toowoomba, with Ipswich still to be held on 7 and 8 November.

In Brisbane alone 179 events were held at 22 locations, with 360 performances generating more than \$3.6 million in direct and incremental spending. Since its introduction in 2016 the popular World Science Festival events across Queensland have attracted audiences of more than 800,000 visitors in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Chinchilla, Townsville and Mackay and generated more than \$32 million in economic impact for the state. In 2022 World Science Festival Queensland will once again boost the state's economic recovery, including in regional areas, showcasing the connection between science and the arts. I encourage all members to mark these days in their diaries for March 2022 and get on board with the excitement of World Science Festival Brisbane and World Science Festival Queensland—the only World Science Festival held outside of New York.