




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Women in Leadership

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.36 am): I always say, you cannot be what you cannot see. As Premier of this state, I lead a government that is proud to support the achievements of women and girls and champion strong female leaders in an effort to achieve greater gender equality in this state. As I look around, I am surrounded by strong women in this House: ministers, assistant ministers and members of parliament who are all leaders of their communities and who are all inspiring the next generation of girls and women to have ambitions and to achieve their dreams.

Outside of the House we also have some amazing female leaders: Dr Jeannette Young, the 27th Governor of Queensland; the Chief Justice to the Queensland Supreme Court, the Hon. Chief Justice Helen Bowskill; the director-general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the head of our Public Service, Rachel Hunter; and Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll. To have so many women in so many key positions is a great achievement for our state. For it to be accepted as unremarkable today speaks volumes about how far we have come as a society. This is how it should be. We have also worked hard to get women on boards, smashing our 50 per cent target in 2019 and the figure has remained above that ever since.

I have some further great news on this front. Today I can announce three women into government leadership positions. In recent weeks a lot has been said about our landmark Energy and Jobs Plan and how we are transforming our energy future to a clean green renewable one. Today I am pleased to announce Sarah Zeljko has been appointed as the new Chair of Energy Queensland to help lead that transition. Ms Zeljko's experience across both private and public sectors and her roles in community groups make her an ideal person to lead Energy Queensland. She has previously held roles as general counsel and company secretary for G8 Education, the Wiggins Island Coal Export Terminal and Cement Australia. I thank the outgoing inaugural chair, Phil Garling, who has held the position since the merger of Energen and Ergon in 2016.

Today I can also announce that Patricia O'Callaghan is the new chief executive officer of Tourism and Events Queensland. Currently Ms O'Callaghan is the CEO of Destination Gold Coast and before that she was the CEO of Townsville Enterprise Ltd. She brings years of experience to the role. She will head up our state's lead tourism marketing organisation and will lead it through the post-COVID-19 tourism landscape, where we are well positioned to cement our reputation as Australia's best holiday destination. I put on the record my thanks to the outgoing CEO, Leanne Coddington, who will step down at the end of the year after nine years as CEO and more than 25 years with TEQ.

The third appointment is a new CEO for Screen Queensland who will continue to lead our industry success. Courtney Gibson brings more than 30 years of industry experience and has worked with commercial and public broadcasters as well as being the chief executive officer at two state screen agencies. Ms Gibson takes over from the outgoing Screen Queensland CEO Kylie Munnich. I would

like to thank Ms Munnich for her contribution to the Queensland screen industry over the past three years. I would like to welcome all three esteemed and accomplished women to their roles and look forward to working with them to deliver for Queenslanders.