




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Universities, Centres of Excellence

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.03 am): Our scientists are among the best in the world across a range of disciplines including the environment, health, Indigenous knowledge and biotechnology. I am proud to announce that our excellence has been once again recognised, with Queensland universities being extremely successful in receiving significant funding from the federal government's latest Australian Research Council grants. In fact, UQ was awarded three projects—more than any other university in the country.

Universities from the Sunshine State have attracted \$140 million to establish four new centres of excellence in Queensland to deliver important research and training. These hubs will support Queensland scientists as they dive into diverse subject areas from the use of Indigenous knowledge in research to quantum technology and innovations in the use of carbon dioxide. We have been able to do that because of this government's ongoing support for the science sector, making our universities attractive to vital research funding. In fact, the Palaszczuk government will support these Queensland centres of excellence with \$1.65 million in funding and over \$350,000 of in-kind contributions.

The ARC Centre of Excellence for Green Electrochemical Transformation for Carbon Dioxide, led by the University of Queensland, will develop new manufacturing businesses for Australia, aligning with our net zero emissions target and goal for a stronger circular and sustainable economy and the creation of future jobs. The ARC Centre of Excellence in Quantum Biotechnology will develop new quantum technologies like portable brain images and superfast single protein sensors. This technology will help unravel key problems including how enzymes catalyse reactions and how higher brain function emerges from networks of neurons.

The James Cook University-led Indigenous ARC Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Environmental Histories and Futures will produce and generate knowledge based on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led approaches and outcomes focused on sustainable Indigenous land and sea management planning for future decades. The ARC Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Futures, led by UQ, will examine and improve the life chances of Indigenous Australians by utilising Indigenous knowledge.

Queensland's huge Energy and Jobs Plan, coupled with significant investment in science and innovation in our latest budget, has put the Sunshine State in a leading place when it comes to scientific research, major breakthroughs in fields like health, and the benefits of good jobs and better services that come with it. These centres of excellence are exactly what the Palaszczuk government wants to support, with \$17 million in our budget to commercialise scientific research and attract even more Commonwealth research and development funding. The Palaszczuk government will continue to fund and support science throughout the state and work with the new federal government to get more funding into the sector after the coalition cut university funding by 10 per cent. Only Labor governments back and believe in science.