

Question on Notice

No. 991

Asked on 14 October 2015

MR PEGG ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS AND MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (HON L ENOCH)—

Will the Minister advise what opportunities there are for local residents and businesses in Stretton as a result of the investment in Advance Queensland?

ANSWER:

Through Advance Queensland, the Queensland Government is investing \$180 million over four years to develop, attract and retain skills, boost industry-research collaboration, and encourage business growth and attract co-investment.

Advance Queensland contains a range of investment strategies from which the constituents of Stretton will benefit. Advance Queensland programs are targeted towards researchers, entrepreneurs, and small and medium enterprises to help ensure we have the right mix of talent and experience to address the State's priorities.

Stretton is well positioned to take advantage of Advance Queensland programs, given its proximity to a range of small and medium businesses, as well as nearby university campuses including Griffith University and the University of Southern Queensland.

Advance Queensland has three key components:

- Best and Brightest Fund (\$50 million) – Investing to develop, attract and retain world-class talent and skills.
- Future Jobs Strategy (\$46 million) – To open the door to new industry-research collaborations, tackle big innovation challenges, focus on translating research and ideas into investible outcomes, and delivering 10-year roadmaps for industries with global growth potential.
- Business Investment Attraction Package (\$76 million) – Increasing startup formation and attraction in Queensland and supporting growth of small and medium enterprises and startups, supporting new ideas to market, and increasing the 'deal flow' into the venture capital sector.

The Advance Queensland initiative also focusses on preparing school students for the jobs of the future through the Advancing Education action plan, which is positive news for students and staff at Stretton State College. The key priorities of the plan include:

- Every state school offering the Digital Technologies curriculum, including coding and robotics, from Prep to Year 10 from 2016;
- Ensuring every state school has access to specialist science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) teachers;
- Ensuring all state schools offer languages other than English from Prep with a focus on Asian languages;
- Ensuring improved learning outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders students; and

- Supporting teachers through targeted professional development and practical teaching resources.

A range of Advance Queensland initiatives have already been launched and additional programs will continue to be implemented over the coming months. Further details on initiatives can be found on the Advance Queensland website at advanceqld.initiatives.qld.gov.au.