

Question on Notice

No. 1178

Asked on Tuesday, 18 September, 2018

MR D PEGG ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the new SparkLab Sciencentre will connect Queenslanders to science?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The new *SparkLab, Sciencentre* at Queensland Museum South Bank, opened its doors to the public in September. It is the first major renovation to the Sciencentre since it opened at Queensland Museum in 2004.

The Palaszczuk Government has invested \$9.4 million into *SparkLab*, demonstrating our commitment to the Queensland Museum and to the future of science.

Sparklab is a showcase for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), supporting the Government's Advance Queensland initiative to put Queensland at the forefront of STEM learning. STEM skills work to build a knowledge-based economy, leveraging our strengths and positioning Queensland for the future.

SparkLab will inspire and nurture creative thinking, and help foster creativity as an integral skill for Queensland's future.

Forty interactive exhibitions will connect participants to science in a hands-on, fun way, providing a space to experiment, explore and engage with science.

Sparklab will enable visitors of all ages to actively participate in STEM learning, encouraging curious minds to be immersed in the wonders of science in fun and inspiring ways.

On the opening day, children, teens and parents were all excited by what *Sparklab* offered by testing their strength, watching giant sparks of electricity, and controlling an illuminated six foot sphere that shows dynamic images of the atmosphere, oceans and land, here on earth and on other planets.

The new *Sparklab* is certain to contribute to the ongoing success of the Queensland Museum Network, which attracted 2.43 million visitors in 2017-18.