

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE



BARRY O'ROURKE MP

Member for Rockhampton



KEPPEL LAUGA MP

Member for Keppel
Assistant Education Minister

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CQ MPs cheer Advance Queensland program to ignite ideas

Queensland startups and small businesses can apply for up to \$250,000 funding to advance their innovative products and services under Round 5 of the Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas fund.

Member for Rockhampton Barry O'Rourke and the Member for Keppel and Assistant Education minister Brittany Lauga said the Ignite Ideas fund had supported more than 270 Queensland businesses to date, through \$26.5 million (three rounds) of Ignite Ideas funding, creating more than 1000 new jobs.

"Through four rounds of funding the Ignite Ideas program has supported hundreds of Queensland companies," Mr O'Rourke said.

"Ignite Ideas funding has supported applicants from diverse range of sectors including tourism, agriculture, advanced manufacturing, engineering, renewable energy, information technology, virtual reality, safety and construction."

Mrs Lauga said through this Advance Queensland program, the Queensland Government is providing innovative businesses with opportunities to take their ready-to-market idea to the next level".

"I'm encouraging small businesses and innovators in Central Queensland to apply for Round 5 of this program".

She said projects are assessed on their ability to commercialise innovative products and demonstrate job creation and a positive impact for our regional economy.

Innovation Minister Kate Jones said the Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas program targets businesses with fewer than 200 staff that have a suitable working prototype that is ready to be turned into commercial reality.

"Advance Queensland is the Palaszczuk Government's \$518 million initiative to diversify Queensland's economy, create the jobs of the future and build Queensland's reputation as a global innovation and investment destination," she said.

More information on the program is available on the Advance Queensland website <https://advance.qld.gov.au/entrepreneurs-startups/ignite-ideas-fund.aspx>.

ENDS...

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