



MEDIA RELEASE

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\$15,000 IN CASH PRIZES FOR QUEENSLAND'S WOMEN IN STEM

Entries are now open for the 2019 Queensland Women in STEM prize which recognises the valuable contribution of Queensland women working in science, technology, engineering and maths careers.

Minister for Science Leeanne Enoch said the state-wide competition awards prizes of \$15,000 to women working in STEM careers whose practice has the potential to benefit Queensland.

"The Palaszczuk Government is a big supporter of Women in Stem as it forms part of its commitment to encourage more women to take up a career in STEM," Minister Enoch said.

"I encourage all women working in STEM careers to nominate themselves for this incredible prize that supports innovations and celebrates Queensland's bright minds.

"This year sees a new award category for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to recognise the work of First Nations women working in STEM fields.

"Queensland's First Nations People have been practising STEM through traditional knowledge customs for more than 60 000 years and I look forward to learning more about this year's nominees."

Minister Enoch said previous winners have gone on to make significant contributions to science and are also wonderful role models.

"When you look at the incredible achievements of our past winners you can't help but feel immense pride with our Queensland female scientists at the forefront of many breakthroughs and discoveries," Minister Enoch said.

"We have scientists feeding the world through sustainable livestock production; establishing new manufacturing industries; and advancing medical science through drug discovery and improved understanding of immune responses.

"With men still significantly outnumbering women in STEM industries it is vital that we maximise opportunities for women to be recognised for their valuable contribution to Queensland's future."

Queensland Museum Network Chief Executive Officer Dr Jim Thompson confirmed that winners of the 2019 Queensland Women in STEM Prize will be announced in March during World Science Festival Brisbane.

"World Science Festival Brisbane is a great opportunity to celebrate the amazing achievements of women in STEM, build awareness of the great science happening in Queensland, and showcase the career opportunities available."

James Ensor, Executive Officer and President of BHP Foundation says they are proud to support this prize as investing in ideas of today will benefit the future of tomorrow.

"STEM fosters innovative thinking and problem solving – skills that are vital to address global sustainable development challenges," Mr Ensor said.



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“The BHP Foundation works with partners on initiatives that improve opportunities for groups who are under-represented in STEM careers – including girls and Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander peoples – to fulfil their potential. The 2019 Queensland Women in STEM Prize does just that.”

Applications for the 2019 Queensland Women in STEM Prize close at 4pm, 27 February 2019:

<https://2019-queensland-women-in-stem-prize.thinkable.org/>

Presented by Queensland Museum, Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist, Office for Women and the BHP Foundation, this

Now in its fourth year, the 2019 Queensland Women in STEM Prize is comprised of three cash prizes of \$5,000 each:

- **Jury Award** presented to the most meritorious applicant, as determined by a panel of esteemed judges
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Jury Award** presented to the most meritorious Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicant, as determined by a panel of esteemed judges
- **People’s Choice Award** presented to the applicant with the highest number of public votes.