

**QUT response to *Building Our Innovation Economy*
the Queensland Government's Advance Queensland Strategy (draft)
14 May 2019**

What is your bold vision for Queensland's innovation economy?

How do you see Queensland's economy in 20 years? What should be known for? Be ambitious.

By 2040 Queensland will be a global leader in the bioeconomy, with regional manufacturing sites realising value through the production of new products from agricultural outputs currently discarded as waste. Along the way we will lead the world in minimising waste, and in protecting our Great Barrier Reef, waterways and lands.

We will host an international focus of advanced research and industry development in advanced robotics, autonomous systems, artificial intelligence and mathematics with a range of applications including health, defence, agriculture, transport, mining, tourism and creative industries.

Queensland will have raised its higher education attainment to the national average, in order to more fully harness the potential of our people and offer new opportunities to families who have had the ability but not the means to pursue them before.

Queensland will conduct world-class research across the board, and extend its research effort into the innovation pipeline to attract industry investment, drawn by the capacity of our institutions and citizens to drive high-value, high-skill, knowledge-intensive new industries.

How might we work together, collaborate across boundaries and target our effort to achieve our ambition?

How do we encourage more and better collaboration? How can we better target our effort?

Queensland universities will work to further entrench our existing culture of collaboration and cross-fertilisation, in the knowledge that success for one is success for all. A Team Queensland approach will enable us to attract industry engagement and investment, as partners can invest in the knowledge that they will work with the best Queensland can provide.

Universities need to follow their ideas through to proof of concept, well beyond publication of results, to help firms see the value of uptake and investment. With the support of state and federal governments, universities will need more commercially-oriented research infrastructure, to provide end-to-end production runs, real-world clinical interventions and real-time product assembly, to demonstrate the realistic application of research discoveries at commercial scale.

Working together, universities, industry and the Queensland Government should consciously and strategically target investment attraction opportunities such as ARC Centres of Excellence, NHMRC Centres of Research Excellence, Cooperative Research Centres, and a potential premium rate for the federal R&D tax incentive.

What actions will help us deliver on our vision for Queensland's innovation economy and who might you be involved?

What can we do now to boost innovation in Queensland? What could we each do more of, or better?

The Queensland Government's planned actions prepare the state for this bright future, by working strategically through the Advance Queensland Economic Council, informed by a new Queensland Science Strategy, targeting priority industries, and in close collaboration with key industry and social sectors.

To best favour success, it is important that Queensland takes full advantage of the expertise available to the state, through key appointments to the Advance Queensland Economic Council and subordinate bodies and reference groups, and through a process of continuous consultation with expertise across universities and industry.

Research is the feedstock of innovation, so QUT is working alongside other universities and research institutions in Queensland to assist the Department of Environment and Science with the development of the new Queensland Science Strategy. We applaud the collaborative approach taken in this process, and are keen to help refine and more closely target the Strategy to areas of current and necessary future strength to provide the science and research base required to realise the overall innovation strategy.

What else do we need to think about?

Is there anything important we've missed? Any other ideas or suggestions?

The Advance Queensland Strategy will benefit from explicitly targeting the considerable expertise in Australian Government policy and programs that resides in both the university sector and key parts of the private sector. This will assist not only by helping to unlock federal investment that has historically not favoured our state, but will also help focus national policy settings onto areas of particular interest and benefit to Queensland.

The contribution of the creative industries and creative arts could be featured more prominently in the final Strategy. These arenas are making a significant contribution already, both economically and in terms of social capital, through collaboration with industries already featured in the draft Strategy (a topical example is QUT's featured collaboration in design and robotic manufacturing with UAP, one of Queensland's remarkable international success stories), but also in their own right across creative disciplines on the national and international stage. Their immense potential for further integrated and stand-alone contribution should be recognised and developed through an explicit focus in the final Advance Queensland Strategy.

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