



ACTION PLAN

Turning ideas into jobs

Accelerating research and development in NSW

January 2021

The Action Plan for Accelerating research and development (R&D) in NSW will make NSW a national leader in the translation and commercialisation of research. A strong, vibrant and high-quality R&D ecosystem is critical for driving future economic growth and creating high-value sustainable jobs. The Action Plan has five Priority Actions and 16 Supporting Actions.



Priority Actions

- 1 Launch a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program** – provide competitive grants for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to find and commercialise innovative solutions to well-defined problems for NSW Government agencies.
- 2 Boost open data** – release new government datasets so businesses can make better decisions, entrepreneurs can build new businesses and the government can solve complex challenges.
- 3 Turbocharge precincts** – develop precincts to attract national and global technology industries and investment, and drive collaboration between universities, research organisations, start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs to commercialise R&D.
- 4 Target strategic support for NSW universities** – collaborate on research that drives future NSW strategic growth industries and research-led industry attraction, and better leverage Commonwealth Government research funding.
- 5 Establish an R&D matchmaking platform** – better connect research ‘sellers’ and ‘buyers’ and link researchers to research infrastructure and expertise.



Supporting Actions

In addition to the Priority Actions, the Action Plan has 16 Supporting Actions grouped around four areas: government action, attraction, translation and collaboration. Together, they will contribute to the development of a NSW R&D Roadmap and help with the scaling-up of already successful NSW Government commercialisation programs.

Government action supports accountability for R&D activities, more effective coordination within government and a procurement system that drives innovation.

Attraction supporting actions focus on attractors for investment and business relocation, such as tax incentives and easier access to research infrastructure, to increase NSW's share of R&D capital.

Translation supporting actions build on the success of existing commercialisation programs such as the Medical Devices Fund and Physical Sciences Fund. They also focus on providing researchers with the entrepreneurial and business skills needed to turn their discoveries into commercial products and services.

Collaboration supporting actions will ensure universities and industry are connected and working together on R&D. These actions include partnering with leading global organisations to bring exciting new opportunities and best practice to NSW.

Another crucial aspect is the Action Plan's recommendation of the launch of **NSW R&D Missions**. They aim to solve the state's long-term strategic challenges in areas including planning, preparing and responding to bushfires, drought resilience, healthier and longer living and the transition to renewable energies.

Background

The Action Plan was led by the Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, and guided by the Advisory Council, chaired by David Gonski AC. In developing the Action Plan a comprehensive public consultation process was undertaken with submissions received from businesses, research organisations, government agencies, investors and universities, and over 60 stakeholder consultations. In addition, a series of workshops, forums and roundtables were held with stakeholders. The ideas that emerged from these consultations helped shape the Action Plan.



The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP
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to the Premier



David Gonski AC
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