



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

---

**2018/CSAE/003**

Agenda Item: 4

## **Science, Technology and Innovation Highlights - Australia**

Purpose: Information  
Submitted by: Australia



**5<sup>th</sup> Chief Science Advisors and  
Equivalents Meeting  
Brisbane, Australia  
25-26 October 2018**

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION HIGHLIGHTS

## AUSTRALIA

### NATIONAL INNOVATION AND SCIENCE AGENDA

The National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA) is the Australian Government's flagship innovation and science policy. Announced in 2015, the NISA sets out Australia's vision for economic prosperity, driven by embracing new ideas in industry, science and innovation policy and harnessing new sources of growth. It is built on four pillars:

- Culture and capital
- Collaboration
- Talent and skills
- Government as an exemplar

[industry.gov.au/strategies-for-the-future/boosting-innovation-and-science](http://industry.gov.au/strategies-for-the-future/boosting-innovation-and-science)

### NATIONAL SCIENCE STATEMENT

The National Science Statement sets out the Australian Government's vision for science in Australia and a strategic policy framework to guide future decision making in science.

The Statement demonstrates the government's commitment and long-term approach to having a strong and stable science system. This includes recognising the importance of international collaboration, and committing to strengthening and expanding Australia's strategic international science partnerships and programs.

[science.gov.au/NSS](http://science.gov.au/NSS)

### INNOVATION AND SCIENCE AUSTRALIA

Announced under NISA in 2015, Innovation and Science Australia (ISA) is a statutory body that was established to provide the Australian Government with whole-of-system advice on science, research and innovation. ISA's Board is comprised of Australian and international experts and leaders from across a range of sectors.

[industry.gov.au/strategies-for-the-future/innovation-and-science-australia](http://industry.gov.au/strategies-for-the-future/innovation-and-science-australia)

### AUSTRALIA 2030: PROSPERITY THROUGH INNOVATION

ISA developed the *Australia 2030: Prosperity through Innovation* plan, which was released by the Australian Government on 30 January 2018. The plan makes 30 recommendations, each with an aim to generate and capture the benefits of innovation for all Australians. These recommendations underpin five strategic policy imperatives:

1. Education: respond to the changing nature of work by equipping all Australians with skills relevant to 2030
2. Industry: ensure Australia's ongoing prosperity by stimulating high-growth firms and raising productivity
3. Government: become a catalyst for innovation and be recognised as a global leader in innovative service delivery
4. Research and development (R&D): improve R&D effectiveness by increasing translation and commercialisation of research
5. Culture and ambition: enhance the national culture of innovation by launching ambitious National Missions

In May 2018, the Government responded to the 2030 Plan, building on the NISA through targeted investments that grow Australia's research, science and technology capabilities and ensuring Australia has the policy settings in place to foster innovation.

<https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/australia-2030-prosperity-through-innovation>

## **2018-19 BUDGET**

In the 2018-19 Budget, the Government announced \$2.4 billion in investment in Australia's research, science and technology capabilities including:

- \$1.9 billion for National Research Infrastructure over the twelve years to 2028-29
- \$70 million for new supercomputers at the Pawsey Centre in Perth
- more than \$260 million for advanced satellite positioning technology
- \$4.5 million to extend our efforts to support gender equity in STEM
- nearly \$30 million to build Australia's artificial intelligence capability.

The Budget also included other significant investments such as:

- long term funding certainty for Antarctic science with \$106 million of funding in the next decade
- \$500 million over ten years in a Genomics Health Futures Mission that will save and transform the lives of more than 200,000 Australians through precision medicine and research.

## **AUSTRALIAN SPACE AGENCY**

The Australian Space Agency commenced operations on 1 July 2018. It will transform and grow a globally respected Australian space industry that lifts the broader economy and inspires and improves the lives of Australians. This will be underpinned by strong international and national engagement.

[space.gov.au](http://space.gov.au)

## **GLOBAL INNOVATION STRATEGY**

The Global Innovation Strategy is the key international measure under the NISA, providing an overarching framework to guide Australia's international industry, science and innovation collaboration.

The Strategy fosters and promotes global engagement on entrepreneurship and innovation, building strong research and business connections internationally. It is underpinned by funding initiatives that help Australians take their ideas to the world, and support international collaboration, particularly between researchers and industry.

[industry.gov.au/Global-Innovation-Strategy](http://industry.gov.au/Global-Innovation-Strategy)

## **AUSTRALIA'S CHIEF SCIENTIST**

Australia's Chief Scientist provides high-level independent advice to the Prime Minister, the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology and other Ministers on matters relating to science, technology and innovation. On 5 September 2018, Dr Alan Finkel's term was extended for a further two years to the end of 2020. In addition to Dr Finkel's ongoing work in a wide range of areas, he is currently focussing on:

- ethical and societal aspects of artificial intelligence and use of data
- opportunities for a hydrogen industry for low and zero emissions energy, both domestically and internationally
- a review of innovation metrics to ensure innovation is accurately measured to guide evidence-based policy-making
- improving research quality
- STEM Education and workforce.

[chiefscientist.gov.au](http://chiefscientist.gov.au)