



29 April 2022

Professor Mark Hutchinson, President
and Ms Misha Schubert, CEO
Science and Technology Australia
PO Box 259
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Professor Hutchinson and Ms Schubert

LABOR'S PLAN FOR A FUTURE MADE IN AUSTRALIA WITH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Labor has real plans for building Australia's capabilities in science, technology, research and industry at the 2022 Election. We recognise science as an economic pillar to build a more prosperous nation as we emerge from the pandemic.

An Albanese Labor Government will prioritise science and technology with our comprehensive plan to create jobs, boost vital skills by investing in education and training, bring industry expertise back onshore and supercharge national productivity.

Our plans for science and technology at the 2022 Election are outlined following.

- Labor believes Australia can be a global STEM superpower. Our national platform notes that Labor will work with business, industry, universities and research institutes to boost Australia's investment in research and development as a percentage of GDP, getting it closer to 3 per cent of GDP achieved in other countries.
- We will turn science into jobs through Labor's \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund which will invest in projects that drive income-generating commercialisation of Australian research through co-investment, loans, equity and guarantees.
- Labor will lead a national mission to play to our national strengths and grow the industries of the future using science and technology to value add in resources, agriculture, transport, medicine, defence capability, enabling capabilities and renewables and low emissions technologies under the National Reconstruction Fund.
- To embolden science and research, Labor will introduce a requirement that, where possible, government agencies worth over \$50 million will source at least 4 per cent of R&D from local small businesses.
- Labor will grow the tech industry – with a goal of 1.2 million tech-related jobs by 2030. This goal will be underpinned by 465,000 fee-free TAFE places and an extra 20,000 university places focusing on high priority areas such as tech.
- Our secure Australian Jobs Plan will also ensure that workers employed through labour hire or other employment arrangements such as outsourcing will not receive less pay than workers employed directly giving greater certainty for the science and technology workforce.

- Labor will abolish the arbitrary average staffing level cap which has caused so much damage to science and research agencies across the Australian Public Service and take steps to create more secure employment where temporary forms of work are being used inappropriately.
- Powering Australia is a comprehensive plan to transition to a net-zero emissions economy. Labor will create jobs, cut power bills and boost renewable energy to reduced emissions gradually and predictably over time, to support international competitiveness and economic growth – consistent with industry’s own commitment to net zero by 2050.
- Labor recognises the role of national collaborative research infrastructure and its significance to the Australian economy. We will establish an Australian Universities Accord to drive lasting reform and deliver accessibility, affordability, quality, certainty, sustainability and prosperity to the higher education sector and the country.
- Labor recognises the importance of STEM in schools, TAFEs and universities. Under the Morrison Government, Australia has recorded its worst ever results in reading, science and maths. An Albanese Labor Government will stop the slide in student results and put every school on a path to its full and fair level of funding.
- We will establish Jobs and Skills Australia to get ahead of the skills curve and plan for the future workforce needs to ensure the nation draws on the widest possible pool of talent to work in science, research and tech jobs.

Labor has also made clear our support for legislation to establish the Australian Economic Accelerator as part of the University Research Commercialisation Action Plan.

Thank you for the invitation to outline Labor’s plans for science and technology at the 2022 election. The next election is a clear choice — more of the same fraught relationship that the Liberals and Nationals have with science and technology or an Albanese Labor Government that will work with the sector to turn science into jobs, grow R&D and encourage STEM in our schools, TAFEs and universities.

Yours sincerely



Paul Erickson
National Secretary
Australian Labor Party