



Hon Andrew Powell
Minister for the Environment and Tourism and
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Ideas into impact
Accelerating science and innovation for a better future discussion paper

Dear Minister

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the *Ideas into impact: Accelerating science and innovation for a better future* discussion paper.

As you are aware, the Committee for Brisbane is a not-for-profit membership organisation, based around a vision of seeing Greater Brisbane recognised as the world's most liveable place. Our members are civic advocates, and represent a true cross-section of the Brisbane community, spanning professional services, infrastructure and transport sectors, urban design, universities and much more.

We greatly appreciate the Queensland Government's commitment to a science and innovation strategy, and its aim to create jobs, boost regions and industries, attract investment, and solve global challenges. These aims have significant implications for the Brisbane city-region, especially as they relate to our city's innovation precincts and institutions of higher learning.

Brisbane is Queensland's natural innovation engine. Our members include three of the state's eight world-class universities (The University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, and Griffith University), which contribute significantly to state, national and international research and innovation output. Standout examples of our city-region's science and innovation capacity include the biomedical Translational Science Hub, the Queensland Bioscience Precinct and the Boggo Road Innovation Junction (BRIJ).

Accelerating government leadership

To nurture such collaborative momentum, the Committee for Brisbane recognises the importance of government leadership and coordination.

The establishment of a single, authoritative Science and Innovation Advisory Council- with an independent Chair and a consolidated Chief Science and Innovation Advisor- would help to serve this purpose, providing stewardship in the areas of entrepreneurship, discovery and translation. This structure would also reduce fragmentation across the State's eight universities and 300-plus research facilities, delivering a shared vision with measurable goals around R&D investment and entrepreneurial capacity. Importantly, government leadership and coordination would provide overall alignment, reduce bottlenecks and promote continuity.

While the creation of a specific R&D or 'pre seed' fund is beyond the scope of our submission, we urge the government to examine practical ways to close the 'commercialisation gap' that UQ, QUT and Griffith Universities have highlighted in their respective submissions. This could be established by government co-investment toward specific initiatives or through a mechanism that provides independent governance with entrepreneurial support (i.e. a tiered or staged seed funding).

Accelerating innovation precincts

The Committee for Brisbane is strongly focused on the value of places and spaces, and how they will contribute to the development of the talent and skills needed for a globally competitive, prosperous future for the region. Our city's innovation precincts are key to this.

We support a coordinated Innovation Precincts and Market-Making Program, including co-location incentives, precinct brokers, and shared accredited facilities. We also support measures to enhance precinct connectivity between our innovation and science precincts through, for example, improvements to BRIJ's Kent Street corridor, which enhances connectivity from both Dutton Park, and Boggo Road train and bus stations, to the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Translational Research Institute and University of Queensland campuses. Co-investment in precinct-based infrastructure would further solve the translation bottleneck in biomedical and life sciences identified by our university members, and anchor supply chains onshore, maximising utilisation of Queensland's research assets.

Accelerating the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

With the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games fast approaching, Queensland has a unique opportunity to lead in sport science, sports technology, and related fields, positioning the state for success on the global stage and beyond. We urge the government to accelerate these opportunities through innovation-friendly procurement pilots, risk-sharing contracts, and designating the 2032 Games as a testbed for Queensland-developed technologies in health, transport, sustainability, and digital systems.

We further urge the government to support "innovation challenges" aligned to real-world science and innovation-related challenges, and support improved public-sector access to research capability. These mechanisms would help to create early demand, de-risk local ventures, accelerate adoption, and deliver visible 2032 Games legacy outcomes, directly turning the "green and gold runway" into tangible economic and social impact.

Summary of Recommendations

The Committee for Brisbane:

- urges the government to consider improved connectivity, coordination and promotion of the Brisbane city-region's science and innovation precincts.

- supports the establishment of a single, authoritative Science and Innovation Advisory Council, with an independent Chair and a consolidated Chief Science and Innovation Advisor.
- notes the creation of a specific R&D or 'pre seed' fund- proposed respectively by UQ and QUT- to help accelerate statewide science and innovation.
- encourages methods to close the 'commercialisation gap' that UQ, QUT and Griffith Universities have highlighted in their respective submissions.
- supports innovation-friendly procurement pilots and risk-sharing contracts in the context of improved 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games technologies and legacy outcomes.
- supports industry-relevant science and innovation challenges, and improved access to public-sector research capability.

We once again thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission. Should you wish to discuss the Committee for Brisbane's work or this submission further, please do not hesitate to contact me on jen@committeeforbrisbane.org.au or 0448 432 936.

Yours sincerely



Jen Williams
CEO- Committee for Brisbane