

**Question on Notice
No. 74
Asked on 7 February 2007**

MS STONE asked the Minister for State Development, Employment and Industrial Relations (MR MICKEL) —

QUESTION:

- (1) How is the Queensland Government investing in research and development infrastructure?
- (2) Is this investment attracting competitive research funding and leading researchers?

ANSWER:

- (1) Research capacity underpins Queensland's ability to innovate in our existing and emerging industries, create new jobs, and compete on the international stage. The Queensland Government's investment in infrastructure is providing the foundation for Queensland's knowledge economy, the basis for more high skilled jobs, new high technology exports, and it is helping build the industry base, healthy society and environment of the future.

Since 1998 the Queensland Government has invested heavily in research and development infrastructure through its Smart State Strategy, committing nearly \$3 billion to boost our innovation, science, research and commercialisation capacity.

The Queensland Government is the second highest spending government, per capita, in research and development compared to other Australian State Governments. The national spending average is \$48 per capita and the Queensland Government spends \$60 per capita. Queensland is now home to some of the most sophisticated research facilities in the world, using leading edge technology to generate world-class research.

The Queensland Government's investment in research and development infrastructure includes the \$128 million Innovation Building Fund launched in 2005, and its predecessor the \$170 million Smart State Research Facilities Fund.

Over the past six years the Queensland Government has invested in excess of \$216 million, in 34 projects, into the development of world-class research and development infrastructure in Queensland via these two funding programs alone. This investment has led to the establishment of world-class facilities such as the:

- \$70 million Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation;
- \$82 million Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology;
- \$34 million Eskitis Institute for Cellular and Molecular Therapies;

- \$23 million Centre for Advanced Animal Science; and
- \$12 million Australian Research Centre for Aerospace Automation.

In addition, the Queensland Government has also committed \$290 million in the development of the Ecosciences Precinct, the Health and Food Sciences Precinct and associated off-site infrastructure.

The Ecosciences Precinct, part of the redevelopment of Brisbane's old Boggo Road site, will be Australia's first centre dedicated to solving some of the country's biggest environmental issues. The Health and Food Sciences Precinct to be situated at Coopers Plains will focus on ways to help people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives through advances in healthcare, medicine, food and nutrition.

Recognising that successful biotechnology industries build on the work of world-class research institutes, the Queensland Government has provided significant investment to develop a critical mass of infrastructure, specifically the following:

- Queensland Institute of Medical Research – Clive Berghofer Cancer Research Centre (\$28 million);
- University of Queensland – Institute for Molecular Bioscience (\$142.5 million); Queensland Brain Institute (\$20 million); Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (\$20 million);
- Queensland University of Technology – Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation (\$22.5 million); and
- new investments will establish a Smart Therapies Institute (\$100 million) at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and Smart State Medical Research Centre (\$35 million) at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. Both these projects have attracted interest from a number of meritorious international researchers and research organisations wishing to participate.

(2) The investment by the Queensland Government in the development of world-class research and development infrastructure in Queensland has attracted significant competitive research funding to date.

- The Smart State Research Facilities Fund has leveraged an additional \$406 million from other sources, including the Commonwealth Government, from its investment of \$170 million.
- The Innovation Building Fund made an investment under its initial funding round of \$46.53 million and attracted additional funding in excess of \$160 million from other sources, including funding from the Commonwealth Government and the private sector.
- The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation is investing \$85.4 million in the Ecosciences and Health and Food Sciences Precincts to which the Queensland Government is contributing \$290 million.
- The Institute of Molecular Bioscience received over \$18.6 million in the latest round of the Australian Research Council and the National Health and Medical Research Council grants. The Institute also received a significant percentage of the University of Queensland's total grants from these Councils. The Institute's facility was opened in May 2003 and now houses 450 scientists.

The Queensland Government's investment is also attracting leading researchers to utilise the facilities.

- Professor Ian Frazer, 2006 Australian of the Year, was awarded the first Smart State Premiers Fellowship in 2006. The Fellowship will focus on immunotherapy and cancer research and is worth \$2.5 million over five years. The Queensland Government is contributing \$1.25 million and the University of Queensland is making a matching contribution. The research infrastructure available in Queensland assists in attracting researchers of the calibre of Professor Frazer. His presence in Queensland for the next five years is anticipated to attract other high quality researchers to Queensland.
- Dr Michael Kimlin is another of the State's highly regarded researchers who has chosen Queensland as his base because of the facilities available to further his research into environmental UV radiation exposure and its health duality for Queenslanders. Dr Kimlin is the recipient of a Smart State Fellowship worth \$300,000 over three years. The Queensland Government contributed \$150,000 and the Queensland University of Technology provided a matching contribution.
- Since the Queensland Government announced its commitment of \$20 million support for construction of a facility to house the Queensland Brain Institute. The Institute has established itself as one of the leading neuroscience institutes in the Asia-Pacific region by attracting the very best neuroscientists from within Australia and from overseas. This position continues to strengthen with the addition of two new groups (comprising 17 neuroscientists) in January/February 2007. These are headed by internationally acclaimed neuroscientists drawn to Queensland by the high class facilities and critical mass in specific disciplines (including cognitive neuroscience, computational and molecular neuroscience).
 - Professor Mandvam Srinivasan (Recipient of the Prime Minister's prize for science in 2006) and his team have relocated from the Australian National University.
 - Professor Jason Mattingley and his team have been attracted from the University of Melbourne.

Queensland's international reputation as a hub of excellence in research is being built on the Queensland Government's investment in research and development infrastructure. This investment leverages significant competitive funding and other investment, and is attracting high calibre skills to Queensland.