

Question on Notice
No. 1664
Asked on 11 November 2008

MR MESSENGER asked the Minister for Tourism, Regional Development and Industry (MS BOYLE) —

QUESTION:

Will she release a list of the commercial businesses that have a presence in each Innovation Zone?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government recognises the importance of economic diversification as a way of tackling future global challenges. Our plan for the future “Towards Q2 - Tomorrow’s Queensland” clearly identifies our intention to create a diverse economy powered by bright ideas as one of its core ambitions.

We realise that attracting and retaining long term investment in the industries of the future and generating greater levels of innovation from investment are vital elements in growing Queensland’s economy.

In order to boost business activity, Innovation Zones in their many different forms have been created as part of broader economic development stimuli around the world. Clusters of various combinations of skilled people and entrepreneurial capacity with science and technology institutions, public infrastructure and like-minded businesses are formed with the view of increasing productivity. Similarly, the aim of Queensland’s Innovation Zones program is to identify areas of strategic value to the growth of technology based industries that will increasingly underpin the future of our economy and to facilitate its planning and development. This is a part of our plan to ensure that we remain at the forefront of innovation and that industry in tomorrow’s Queensland stays strong. This involves identifying key areas for development, working in partnership with major stakeholders such as landholders, universities and other research institutions, local governments, public infrastructure organisations to name a few, to maximise economic and community outcomes.

Innovation zones continue to evolve to keep pace with local opportunities and economic conditions. In Queensland, the development of Innovation Zones has been guided by the Smart State Council’s report on Smart Cities. As a result, Innovation Zones are progressively transforming into Smart Communities which additionally focus on strengthening the linkages between research and business clusters and their surrounding communities. The development of the Smart Communities program (previously known as Innovation Zones) is a response to the Smart State Council’s *Smart Cities* report and will be informed by the development of the Smart City plan. The program develops plans for Smart Communities, in collaboration with other agencies. This approach enables us to undertake whole of Government sustainable planning and facilitates the clustering of activities in knowledge based industries such as health, information technology and biotechnology together with other centres of higher learning. Processes to identify and plan Innovation Zones, or Smart Communities, as they are currently referred to, are evolving and are influenced by global trends, industry development and research opportunities, international studies, existing infrastructure and the availability of strategic development opportunities.

In response to your question, I am pleased to provide examples of firms which are in key industry sectors for each Innovation Zone. The attached list contains businesses with which my Department has a strong working relationship and reside in one of the seven Innovation Zones. However, this list does not include the many other businesses that have also chosen to locate within these areas for commercial reasons.

I take this opportunity to highlight some of the successful key industry outcomes of Queensland's Innovation Zones.

The Australian Tropical Forest Institute in Cairns facilitates co-location, collaboration and regional partnerships of key players in the sustainable use and management of tropical forest landscapes. The Australian Tropical Forest Institute hosts research, government and non-government organisations and conducts a high profile research program in the Tropical Landscapes Joint Venture.

In Townsville the State Government, James Cook University (JCU) and CSIRO have jointly allocated funding for the construction of the 'Australian Tropical Science and Innovation Precinct' (ATSIP) facilities at the JCU Townsville Campus. The facilities will be designed to facilitate future growth of ATSIP. ATSIP will comprise landmark facilities housing research activity in tropical areas. The new facilities will bring together the CSIRO Davies Laboratory, JCU, and similar organisations, to foster research and innovation in tropical science.

Kelvin Grove/Herston features an integrated urban village which is home to Queensland University of Technology's Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation and the Creative Industries Precinct. The largest medical research institute in the southern hemisphere, Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Q-Pharm, Q-Gen, the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital are also located in this precinct. The Creative Industries Precinct, with a focus on game development, digital art, film, television, multimedia, performing and visual arts and design sectors, features the only Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation and Creative Enterprise Australia. Together they provide business benchmarking, mentoring services and incubation facilities to build business skills and develop greater commercial outcomes for Creative Industries.

A world class Ecosciences Precinct, will be Australia's first centre dedicated to solving some of the country's biggest environmental issues. This precinct is located within a broader development. The Boggo Road Urban Village, is being transformed into a mixed-use urban location not far from the CBD comprising residential, retail, commercial and research facilities. This cluster also features the Princess Alexandra Hospital, the Pharmacy Australia Centre of Excellence and prominent medical research institutes such as the Mater Medical Research Institute, and the University of Queensland's Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and Metabolic Medicine. It will also be home to the proposed Smart Therapies Institute for translational research.

The Brisbane Technology Park, located at Eight Mile Plains, is a Government infrastructure initiative designed to promote and support a community of innovative and technology orientated businesses. Brisbane Technology Park is also home to a number of initiatives providing a wide range of services and assistance specifically targeted at supporting high technology business growth and includes the Australian Institute for Commercialisation and the Queensland Manufacturing Institute. The

Brisbane Innovation Park, Griffith University and the Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies are situated at Mt Gravatt and are part of this broader cluster, boosting strengths in the environmental sciences, molecular biology and natural products discovery.

The expansion of existing Queensland Health research facilities at Coopers Plains will create a science centre of excellence and complement the Ecosciences Precinct. The first of its kind in Australia, the Coopers Plains Health and Food Sciences Precinct will cover both human and animal health and food sciences in one location. This precinct will focus on ways to help people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives through advanced health care, medicine, food and nutrition. The Bligh government is proud to support this initiative as we want to make Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people.

Home to Australia's largest biotechnology R&D facility, the Queensland Bioscience Precinct incorporates the University of Queensland's Institute for Molecular Bioscience and CSIRO's livestock, plant and sustainable ecosystems divisions, the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology and the Queensland Brain Institute. IMBcom Pty Ltd is also located here, driving the development and commercialisation of its innovative research programs.

Many ICT companies such as Wotif.com, Technology One, Microgenx have chosen to locate within the Milton Innovation Zone as it provides ICT companies with opportunities to collaborate, access venture capital and grow their business.

In today's marketplace, the competition to attract talent and improve levels of innovation is fierce. The Bligh Government understands this and as such, Smart Communities is only one of a number of initiatives my department is currently undertaking to facilitate innovation. Innovation is key to the activities of the Department and there are many initiatives supported across the state. The Bligh Government's funding provided under the Smart State Innovation Funds for research and development activities across the regions is just one example, but there are many more.

The Bligh Government continues to support industry development across the State and research and the growth of technology business will remain an integral part of this commitment. In ensuring that the economy in tomorrow's Queensland stays strong, we will continue to invest in concepts such as the Smart Communities initiative and we look forward to seeing our industries reap the rewards of this investment in tomorrow's Queensland.