

Chair

Senator the Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO
Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

ISA Statement of Intent

On 21 December 2016 the Hon Greg Hunt MP, as Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, delivered his Statement of Expectations to Innovation and Science Australia (ISA). As Chair of the Innovation and Science Australia Board, I welcome the opportunity to continue ISA's work in supporting the Government to transform Australia into a leading innovation nation. This letter forms ISA's Statement of Intent in response to the ISA Statement of Expectations.

Enhanced by new legislation and with a membership of successful and experienced business executives, entrepreneurs and academics, ISA is well placed to provide advice to government on all innovation, science and research matters. ISA will provide oversight of key government innovation programmes, and provide strategic guidance and momentum to the implementation of the National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA).

In doing so, ISA will complement the Commonwealth Science Council, which will continue to advise the Government on high-level science challenges facing Australia. ISA will provide advice to your department on the development of a National Science Statement.

- **2030 Strategic Plan**

ISA is developing a 2030 Strategic Plan for the Australian innovation, science and research system to transform Australia into a leading innovation nation. This plan will be delivered to you by the end of 2017 and will be informed by the performance review of Australia's Innovation, Science and Research system (ISR System Review) that was provided to Government in early 2017.

The development of the 2030 Strategic Plan will help inform and guide the Government's future investments in science and research priorities. The 2030 Strategic Plan may suggest improvements and changes to specific programmes and recommend the introduction of new ones designed to propel Australia into a top tier innovation nation.

The development of the 2030 Strategic Plan will be supported by a whole-of-government Commonwealth Reference Group. The Office of Innovation and Science Australia (OISA) has already engaged with state and territory governments to understand their strategic priorities on innovation, science and research matters.

- **Oversight of Programmes**

ISA will operate across Government to propose options to address policy and investment fragmentation. ISA will seek to provide expert advice to ministers and their portfolio agencies where policy development is likely to significantly influence the performance of the innovation system. I will write to Ministers annually seeking information on priority action areas and their anticipated policy and evaluation activities. Where appropriate, I will also seek their views on the potential for ISA to provide strategic advice and guidance on programmes in priority areas within their portfolios. This includes working with the Advisory Board for the Centre of Defence Industry Capability to maximise the potential spill over benefits from Defence's programmes.

ISA maintains a structure which utilises delegated responsibilities. The Board will review these delegations to seek to optimise the use of committees in overseeing its legislated programme obligations, while being mindful of current legislative frameworks and authorities. The Board will also continue to provide strategic oversight of the NISA and will strategically engage on specific issues where there is an intersection between the Board's strong interest and expertise and ISA's legislated oversight role - as it has done so already, for example with the Biomedical Translation Fund, an important NISA initiative which has involved constructive co-operation between your department and the Department of Health.

ISA will also strive to improve the evaluation and performance measurement of existing key programmes, including the Entrepreneurs Programme, in consultation with relevant areas of your Department. Emphasis will be placed on objective economic outcomes.

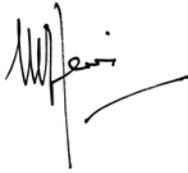
- **Advocacy and Communications**

ISA will also work with your department and across Government to build a national dialogue on Australian innovation, science and research and will support the cultural change required towards Australia becoming a leading innovation nation. Stakeholder engagement, at both the domestic and international levels, is vital to delivering on this objective. ISA will engage with key stakeholders including governments at all levels, the science, research, innovation, and business communities including professional and peak bodies, the general public and stakeholders internationally. ISA's engagement will also leverage the networks and standing of the individual Board members who have strong links across the innovation system.

ISA will also develop a communications strategy so that ISA can showcase successful innovators, entrepreneurs and researchers both here and overseas, and encourage overseas investment in Australia through close co-operation with the Australian Trade Commission. The strategy will explore opportunities to leverage industry, innovation and science events and promotions as well as NISA activities. The strategy will describe the role for Board members in international engagements and showcasing opportunities. Board members have already undertaken a considerable number of public engagements spanning the innovation system to date. The publication and promotional activities supporting the release of the ISR System review is another example of how ISA will act to encourage public discourse on matters related to innovation, science and research.

I look forward to working with you and your ministerial colleagues on implementing these important deliverables.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Ferris'. The signature is stylized with a vertical line on the left and a horizontal line on the right.

Bill Ferris AC

16 February 2017