

Strategic Plan 2016-20

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science facilitates the growth and productivity of globally competitive industries. We also support the building of a strong scientific capability, business innovation and the commercialisation of new ideas as critical requirements for productivity and economic growth.

Globally competitive industries are important contributors to Australia's economic growth and productivity. The jobs and prosperity of today, tomorrow and the future can be secured through competitive businesses and industries, attracting investment and opening new markets for Australian resources. The Australian Government's approach continues to be to build an agile economy powered by strong, self-reliant and innovative businesses in a challenging environment in which our population is ageing, terms of trade have fallen from record highs, the global outlook is uncertain and businesses face intense global competition and disruptive technological change.

The department works closely with industry, businesses, the science community and other stakeholders, and across governments to help build a globally confident and outward looking Australian economy through: supporting science and commercialisation; growing business investment and improving business capability; and simplifying doing business.

Our programs:

- support businesses to collaborate with scientists and researchers in universities and other institutions to maximise commercial returns from the government's significant annual investment to science and research and development
- promote the growth of internationally competitive industries by facilitating nationwide action on collaboration, commercialisation and international engagement
- facilitate competitive market places and business innovation to assist with business and industry transition
- support regulatory frameworks to sustainably expand Australia's resource base and underpin its international competitiveness
- contribute to unlocking the potential of northern Australia
- reduce costs to business through the delivery of simple, easy to access services and information and streamlined regulation and government-to-business interactions.

Our work is supported by building a high performance organisation. We continue to invest in our people and seek new approaches that will allow us to achieve our objectives and realise our vision in a rapidly changing and challenging environment.



SUPPORTING SCIENCE & COMMERCIALISATION

is important to deliver better scientific and commercial outcomes for Australia including encouraging collaboration between researchers and businesses.



GROWING BUSINESS INVESTMENT & IMPROVING BUSINESS CAPABILITY

is crucial to building a diversified, flexible, resilient and dynamic economic environment in which businesses can compete and grow to adapt to new markets and capture emerging opportunities.



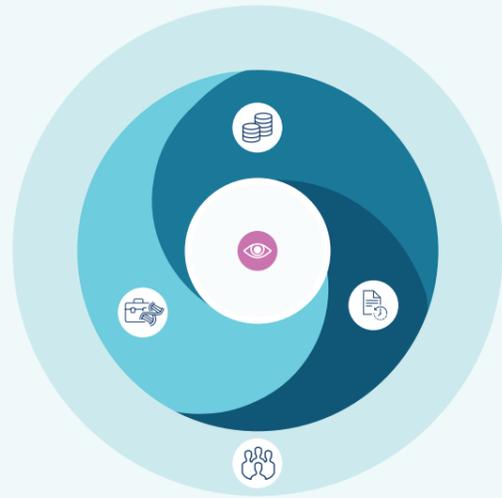
SIMPLIFYING DOING BUSINESS

is necessary to lower costs to businesses and facilitate innovation—boosting productivity and enhancing Australia's international competitiveness.



BUILDING A HIGH PERFORMANCE ORGANISATION

means investing in our people, values, processes and systems to allow us to achieve our objectives and realise our vision.



VISION

Enabling growth and productivity for globally competitive industries

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SUPPORTING SCIENCE & COMMERCIALISATION

Facilitating the development and uptake of new ideas and technology, and translating them into commercial activity, will deliver better scientific and economic outcomes for Australia. It will increase productivity, improve Australia's competitiveness and drive economic growth.

Our aims are to:

- support the creation and sharing of scientific and technological information as an input to commercial activity
- encourage collaboration between the research sector and businesses to generate solutions that lead to improved productivity, international competitiveness and address national and international challenges
- support international collaboration on science and technology
- maintain a strong science base focused on meeting Australia's priorities
- promote Australia's science capability and the work of Australia's science agencies
- promote the innovative adoption and diffusion of digital technologies.

Our challenges include:

- overcoming the cultural differences between businesses and researchers to encourage innovation and collaboration
- measuring and optimising the economic benefits of science and innovation spending, given not all investment will deliver results in the short-term.

Overall, we expect our work to contribute to supporting science and commercialisation and deliver better scientific and economic outcomes if there is:

- growth in the proportions of small, medium and large firms engaging in innovative activity
- increased investment by businesses in intangible assets—i.e. the knowledge assets of an organisation
- growth in the value-added of knowledge-intensive industries
- improved returns from the commercialisation of research
- improvement in Australia's performance in scientific research.



GROWING BUSINESS INVESTMENT & IMPROVING BUSINESS CAPABILITY

Within a global and increasingly digital economy Australia's future prosperity and continued jobs growth relies on a diversified, flexible, resilient and dynamic economic base that can identify and adapt to new markets and emerging opportunities. This will support the transformation of existing industries and the growth of new ones, enabling access to new markets and increasing competitiveness in existing markets.

Our aims are to:

- work with industry to support businesses to build the capability (including digital) necessary to achieve profitable and sustainable futures
- encourage innovation and investment in growth sectors to underpin industry transformation
- facilitate structural change and embrace disruption to create new opportunities in our communities and help build the industries of the future
- support economic development in northern Australia
- work collaboratively across government to open up resources and other export markets
- work nationally and internationally to attract private sector investment
- be an exemplar of innovation, embracing digital solutions to improve the efficiency and business experience of our program delivery function.

Our challenges include:

- adjusting to a transitioning resources environment including global competition and volatility in commodity prices
- ensuring we work with other agencies and the private sector to facilitate an environment which supports economic growth and jobs.

Overall, we expect our work to encourage investment in activities that contribute to improved productivity and increased competitiveness if there is:

- growth in new private sector investment
- increased foreign direct investment in Australia
- improvement in Australia's ranking in international performance indices.



SIMPLIFYING DOING BUSINESS

Reducing the burden on industry of inefficient regulation and improving the delivery of our programs will facilitate competition and innovation. It will boost productivity and jobs, and enhance Australia's international competitiveness by making it easier for businesses to interact with government and reducing the cost of doing business.

Our aims are to:

- make it simpler for businesses to find, understand and access government services to help them start, run, grow and leave their businesses
- personalise and streamline business dealings with government
- develop new ways to provide information and services to businesses to help them better understand business opportunities and challenges
- drive better connections between business programs to build impact and scale
- contribute to economy-wide regulatory reforms that reduce business costs
- take opportunities to use regulation as a selling point for Australia, its products and services
- create a conducive operating environment for competitive Australian businesses.

Our challenges include:

- understanding and responding to diverse business needs
- ensuring that the regulatory environment strikes the right balance between efficient markets and community expectations
- helping policy makers find alternatives to bespoke and prescriptive regulation, including through increased utilisation of international standards
- identifying and responding to the impact of regulatory change, rapid technological innovations and emerging business models that circumvent existing regulatory measures.

Overall, we expect our work to contribute to encouraging innovation, strengthening competition and creating a lower cost operating environment for Australian businesses if there is an improvement in:

- the quality of regulation (measured via domestic and international reviews)
- business and government satisfaction with delivery of regulation reform
- the ease of doing business in Australia.



BUILDING A HIGH PERFORMANCE ORGANISATION

To meet the Australian Government's priorities we must adapt and be proactive and innovative as we work with our stakeholders to find new approaches to a changing environment. We will achieve our objectives and realise our vision by investing in our people, values, processes and systems.

Our aims are to:

- be recognised as a leader in policy development and value for money program delivery on matters relevant to Australia's industries
- work collaboratively to support whole-of-government policies including the government's approach to economic transition and regional growth; the National Innovation and Science Agenda; and the Northern Australia White Paper
- contribute to the government's shared and common services program to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of services to government
- be a leader in delivering open government through engagement and participation
- foster a strong and collaborative development culture that builds employee capabilities and creates career opportunities
- improve the delivery of internal enabling and support services through regularly reviewing key processes to: remove internal red tape, optimise the use of digital technologies and increase efficiency
- be a leader in the use of flexible work arrangements to support and drive employee engagement
- become an agency of choice for new and existing employees.

Our challenges include:

- maintaining a positive workplace culture in times of uncertainty and change
- placing undue focus on processes rather than outcomes.

We will know that we have built a high performance organisation if there is an improvement, over time, in:

- our staff's understanding of the department's role including in whole-of-government policy development
- stakeholder and peer recognition of the role we play in building customer satisfaction with the delivery of program services on matters relevant to Australia's industries
- satisfaction with the delivery of program services
- satisfaction with the delivery of internal enabling and support services
- our overall productivity.