Australia + New Zealand

Science, Research and Innovation Cooperation Agreement

Australian Government

New Zealand Government

A significant addition to Closer Economic Relations

On 17 February 2017, New Zealand and Australia signed a new Agreement on Science, Research and Innovation Cooperation.

The Agreement is aimed at delivering important collaboration on both sides of the Tasman. It is a concrete demonstration of our deepening and evolving trans-Tasman ties, and is a significant addition to the Closer Economic Relations framework, and part of the Single Economic Market agenda.

The Agreement sets out a work programme that will provide a valuable focus-point for collaboration, which is vital to both Australia and New Zealand economic growth. Science, research and innovation are critical to generating new opportunities, growth and improving the lives of our people, and this Agreement recognises our mutual focus on these opportunities.

The Agreement will implement a new framework for Australia and New Zealand's science, research and innovation cooperation and forms an enduring, adaptive, substantive and comprehensive foundation for developing a trans-Tasman innovation ecosystem.

A wide array of cooperative initiatives across all parts of our science, research and innovation systems are possible under this Agreement – from government-to-government initiatives, through to individual researcher collaboration. Shared science, research and innovation priorities, and aligned resources and expertise will deliver better and bigger outcomes than each country could achieve alone.

A new way of working together

The Agreement will be delivered through an agreed work programme, which will be reviewed and renewed every year.

Over time the work programme could cover opportunities for:

- **Cooperation** on shared research infrastructure planning and access
- **Cooperation** in other regions or on mutually agreed international opportunities
- **Cooperation** on research prioritisation and funding
- **Cooperation** on science assessment and research protocols, standards, processes and regulations
- **Exchange** of experts, expertise, policy, research and Information
- **Promotion** of a trans-Tasman innovation ecosystem
- **Enhanced** cooperation amongst researchers and organisations from all sectors
- **Collaboration** on large-scale projects and major research and development initiatives
- **Encouraging** and facilitating the development of business and institutional science, research and Innovation links

Next steps for implementing the Agreement in 2017

01 MAP COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Collaboration between CSIRO and New Zealand research institutions

The New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries and the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) will continue and complete a mapping exercise in primary sector research areas.

The New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), CSIRO and relevant New Zealand research institutions will explore opportunities to collaborate in areas of mutual interest and benefit, through ongoing dialogue and 1:1 meetings.

Genomics

Australia and New Zealand agree to strengthen cooperation and to explore avenues to engage on genomics in healthcare.

Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases

New Zealand will join the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD).

The New Zealand Health Research Council and the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council will consider opportunities to collaborate within the GACD, both bilaterally and together with other GACD member countries.

02 COOPERATE ON RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING AND INVESTMENT

Research Infrastructure Roadmap

The Australian Department of Education and Training (DET), the Australian Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS) and MBIE will continue discussions to inform and align each other's research infrastructure roadmaps where appropriate.

Australia will consult with New Zealand on the development and implementation of the 2016 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap, with the possibility of collaboration.

New Zealand will consult with Australia on the development of its Research Infrastructure Roadmap.

Square Kilometre Array

Australia and New Zealand will work together to develop new data management technologies.

Satellite-Based Augmentation System

Australia and New Zealand will undertake a joint trial of a second generation Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS) for the delivery of high integrity positioning, navigation and timing data.

The **Australian Synchrotron** is an important research infrastructure platform for Australia and New Zealand and a **positive example of our joint research infrastructure efforts**. It is unique in South-East Asia and Oceania, delivering ground-breaking scientific discoveries that directly benefit industry with applications that span mining, health, manufacturing and food security. New Zealand is an important supporter of the Synchrotron, having contributed to operating and capital funding to the facility since its inception over a decade ago.

Australia and New Zealand are partners in the **Square Kilometre Array (SKA)** project, a 10 country collaboration to build the world's largest and most advanced radio telescope. The SKA will test the boundaries of big data technology as it collects data at a rate faster than today's global internet traffic. Under the Agreement, Australia and New Zealand will work together to maximise the opportunities presented by this global mega science project, including developing new data management capability.

SBAS uses space- and ground-based infrastructure to **improve the accuracy, integrity and availability of signals from multiple Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS), like GPS**. The testing will allow the region to explore the link between precise positioning, productivity and innovation in nine distinct sectors: agriculture, aviation, construction, maritime, mining, rail, road, spatial and utilities. The testing will add world-leading technology know-how and GNSS expertise to both countries. SBAS is used in North America, Europe, China, Russia, India and Japan and contributes to competitiveness, efficiency and safety in a range of industries. The test will be run out of the Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information.

Closer collaboration of Australia's and New Zealand's **national measurement institutes** will give business and consumers in both economies added confidence that they can rely on trusted, internationally recognised measurements, whether it be accurate timing services, reliable pressure measurements or comprehensive characterisation of nanomaterials.

03 COLLABORATE ON MEASUREMENT STANDARDS RESEARCH

New Zealand's Measurement Standards Laboratory and Australia's National Measurement Institute will consider means through which measurement standards research and delivery of services to industry and other stakeholders could be better aligned, in the context of the long term strategy considerations of both organisations.

04 BUILD ON A TRANS-TASMAN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

Australia and New Zealand will work together to shape the broader SEM narrative to reflect the opportunities to collaborate under a trans-Tasman innovation ecosystem, and to develop branding strategy and communications activities.

The **Forum of Australian Chief Scientists** is a bi-annual opportunity to strategic discourse among Australia's Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel AO, and Chief Scientists from the States and Territories. In November 2016, the New Zealand Chief Scientist, Sir Peter Gluckman, joined the FACS membership. The NZ Chief Science Advisor's involvement in the FACS meetings will enhance collaboration between the two countries, and provides opportunities to discuss the challenges and opportunities for Australia and New Zealand that can be addressed through science.

05 EXCHANGE EXPERTS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE

The New Zealand Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor will become a standing member of the Forum of Australian Chief Science Advisors.

We will identify shared priorities for horizon scanning, facilitated by the Australian Chief Scientist and the New Zealand Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, in collaboration with the Royal Society of New Zealand and the Australian Council of Learned Academies.

DIIS and MBIE will work to strengthen engagement between Australia and New Zealand through the Commonwealth State and Territory Advisory Council on Innovation (CSTACI).

Contact us

The Australian Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment will lead overall implementation of the Agreement.

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