



Opening statement – Dr Larry Marshall, CSIRO
Senate Estimates, October 2021

Thank you Chair.

CSIRO exists to make life better for all Australians. We deliver impartial science to inform policy, we are the bridge that connects research with industry, and we invest in Australia's future.

Today we are investing in science and technology to accelerate Australia's recovery from COVID-19 – from our cities to our regions – and in the future skills and industries that will define our place in the world.

We are working with Australia's largest companies on enabling technologies like hydrogen, low carbon materials, and carbon capture and storage to help navigate the global demand to reduce emissions from heavy industry, while maintaining both jobs and profits.

We are supporting Australia's regions through this global transition with Missions to fight drought, to grow agrifood exports, and to grow Hydrogen Hubs. We're also working with farmers to control the mouse plague, and reducing the threat from diseases like dengue fever and Zika.

To support a bright future in Australian manufacturing, we are expanding our capability in biomedical, aerospace, and agile manufacturing technology so we can build these sectors with industry. To help Australia leapfrog global competition, we are also building capability and skills in new areas of science, including artificial intelligence, autonomous sensors, collaborative intelligence, microbiomes, and quantum.

Commercial application is essential to grow new jobs for all Australians, so we are continuing to build Australia's innovation ecosystem with a range of programs like SME Connect, Kickstart, and the CSIRO Innovation Fund, as well as support for businesses to gain a competitive advantage with science.

Through all of this, partnership is a cornerstone, and is at the heart of the program of Missions we are rolling out to address Australia's greatest challenges. Together with partners across government, research, and industry we have already launched four missions that will help transform our energy, food, exports and farming, delivering security and confidence to our industries and regional towns. We will continue to launch more missions as they reach maturity, and add new ones as the landscape evolves.

As we head into the warmer months, our teams have also been busy applying CSIRO's disaster resilience research to better prepare our communities should bushfires and floods strike.

Whether it be transforming energy and industries, building capability and skills, or investing to turn global threats into our nation's opportunities, CSIRO is putting science to work for all Australians.

[ends]