

PUBLIC SCIENCE

Investing in the knowledge economy

Under the Coalition Government, funding for science, research and development in Australia has constantly fallen below the OECD average.

Our wellbeing, economy and ability to respond to major crises relies on science.

The Greens will invest in science and research, and foster a culture where innovation, invention and experimentation can flourish to create a smarter, more prosperous Australia.

Investing in science creates jobs, makes our economy stronger, and allows Australia to overcome the challenges we face as a nation.

THE GREENS WILL:

- ▲ Put Australia on a pathway to investing 4% of GDP in science, research and innovation
- ▲ Establish a Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology to provide independent, scientific advice to Parliament
- ▲ Invest \$2.5 billion to make jobs for scientists and researchers more secure across universities, research agencies and the private sector
- ▲ Provide \$1.3 billion to CSIRO and other public research agencies
- ▲ Make higher education free

PAYING FOR OUR PLAN

By making billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share of tax and winding back handouts to big polluters, we can build a better life for all of us.

1 in 3 big corporations pays no tax and many big corporations and billionaires send their profits offshore tax free.

The Greens will tax billionaires with a new 'billionaires tax', require big corporations making excessive profits to pay a 'corporate super-profits tax' and axe billions of dollars in handouts to the coal, oil and gas giants that are driving the climate crisis.

These measures have all been costed by the independent Parliamentary Budget Office.

When big corporations and billionaires pay their fair share, everyone can have the services they need for a better life.

TOWARDS 4% OF GDP IN SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Australia has a strong history of groundbreaking scientific and innovative advancements. People all across the world have benefited from discoveries made by Australia's outstanding researchers, including during the pandemic. The Greens believe we need a strong research sector in Australia to help move away from the polluting industries of the past and deliver the jobs of the future.

Unfortunately, Australia's innovations rankings are the lowest they've been in a decade, ranking 25th in the Global Innovation Index¹. Commonwealth Government investment in

research and development is well below where it needs to be.

We need meaningful investment in science, research and innovation to supercharge our economy and make Australia a global leader in new and emerging research and technology.

The Greens will make the investment Australia needs. We have a comprehensive public funding road map to increase public and private investment in Research and Development (R&D) to 4% of GDP by 2030. This will put Australia back on track to being a global leader in new and emerging research and technology. Our plan includes significant public investment across key areas.

As part of that plan, the Greens will boost funding for key research bodies, including:

- \$5.5 billion in additional block grant funding for universities, to boost their roles as powerhouses of the research

¹ Global Innovation Index 2021
https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_public_gii_2021.pdf

ecosystem and to help improve job security for scientists working in universities;

- \$1.3 billion for key research bodies such as the CSIRO, Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, Australian Research Council, National Health and Medical Research Centre, Cooperative Research Centres;
- \$1 billion a year for a research translation fund to be managed by the Australian Research Council;
- \$175 million a year in additional funding for the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy; and
- \$119 million over the forwards to develop and implement a national open access publishing program for research.

ESTABLISH A PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In an age of fake news, conspiracy theories and misinformation, now, more than ever we need trustworthy institutions to set the record straight and give us the scientific evidence we need to address the crises we're facing - whether that's a pandemic, the climate crisis, or future threats.

A new, independent Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology will provide independent, objective scientific advice to members of Parliament to help ensure decisions are informed and underpinned by science.

SUPPORT EQUITABLE AND ONGOING EMPLOYMENT FOR RESEARCHERS

Australia is losing key thinkers because far too often, research work is underpaid and insecure. The Greens will spend over \$2.5 billion to support equitable and ongoing employment opportunities, including:

- Establish an additional non-refundable tax offset of 20% for companies that hire science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) PhD students or equivalent graduates in their first three years of employment;
- \$50 million per year to improve diversity in science and research and development by funding programs that support women, First Nations peoples and LGBTIQ+ people in science;
- \$50 million per year for a Secure Work for Researchers fund, to help universities and research institutes transition their workers to secure employment;
- \$70 million per year in additional funding for the Australian Research Council's Future Fellowships scheme to support mid-career researchers;
- \$41 million per year in additional funding for existing teacher training in STEM education; and
- \$20 million in capped funding for the public service to examine options to reduce upfront time commitment for grant applications.