The Howard Government

Putting Australia's Interests First

ELECTION 2001

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OUR FUTURE ACTION PLAN

Backing Australian Science and Innovation

Backing Australian Science and Innovation commits the Coalition to building on its plan under the Backing Australia’s Ability initiative providing record funding and support for Australian science and innovation. The Coalition will further strengthen our ability to generate ideas and undertake research, accelerating the commercial application of ideas, and developing and retaining Australian skills.
# Backing Australian Science and Innovation for the future

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Highlights of the Government's Achievements

Labor's Record
Our Future Action Plan – A Summary

- The Coalition recognises the fundamental importance of science and innovation to Australia’s future.
- Innovation today creates the smart jobs of tomorrow - not just in new industries such as biotechnology and information technology, but in building on our world-leading capabilities in agriculture, mining and manufacturing.
- Under the Coalition’s plan for science and innovation, Government funded support has grown to a record $4.7 billion a year. We are amongst the top 6 nations in the developed world per capita for public funding of science.
- This record expenditure has been enhanced by measures such as the Coalition’s doubling of medical research funding by $614 million and the National Biotechnology Strategy by $30 million.
- The Coalition has provided an integrated whole of government approach science and innovation. This was demonstrated in the holistic approach brought to the development and implementation of the Backing Australia’s Ability package. We will continue to give a whole of government approach to science, to ensure that all sectors of government, business, research and the science communities are fully integrated into policy development.
- The Coalition believes this holistic approach to science policy is the best means of ensuring that Australia continues to drive towards world-class science capabilities and infrastructure, ensuring that our economy and all Australians get the full benefits of innovation.
- This strong support will continue to grow dramatically over the next five years through the Coalition’s science and innovation plan, Backing Australia’s Ability, which commits an extra $3 billion to supporting research, commercialisation and skills development.

Delivering on our Plan

The Coalition is getting on with the job of fully implementing the initiatives in Backing Australia’s Ability. For example:

- Applications were called on 20 September 2001 for the first round of Australian Research Council grants to benefit from the Coalition’s doubling of the Council’s funding.
- $55 million for university research infrastructure grants were announced on 29 October, including a $10.75 million upgrade of five Barrier Reef island research stations and a $5.6 million upgrade to the Siding Springs observatory.
- Applications have been called for World Class Centres of Excellence in ICT and Biotechnology.
• 15 Major National Research Facilities across every State and Territory were announced on 21 August 2001.

• Legislation to implement the Premium 175% R&D Tax Concession and small business rebate was passed on 27 September 2001.

• Applications were called for the first Cooperative Research Centres to benefit from the Coalition’s additional $227 million in funding on 3 October 2001.

• Applications closed on 26 October 2001 for operators of the Pre-Seed Fund, which will support university research commercialisation.

• On 15 October 2001, the Prime Minister announced reforms to the taxation of venture capital which industry believes will attract an additional $1 billion in investment to Australia.

• The operator of the Coalition’s Intellectual Property Research Centre was announced on 4 October 2001.

• 21,000 additional full-time equivalent university places were allocated to universities across Australia on 24 August 2001.

• Legislation to introduce the Coalition’s $995 million Postgraduate Education Loans Scheme was passed on 31 August 2001.

• Fifteen Federation Fellowships, which will help us retain our best and brightest researchers, were announced on 25 September 2001.

• Increased funding for ABC science programming and National Science Week from the Coalition’s National Innovation Awareness Strategy was announced in August and September 2001.

**Strengthening Our Ability to Generate Ideas and Undertake Research**

• The Coalition will strengthen public research by providing $736 million over the next 5 years to double the funding of the Australian Research Council, having already doubled funding for medical research.

• The Coalition is providing $941 million over the next 5 years for university and other research infrastructure, including 15 Major National Research Facilities, together with an Institute of Molecular Biology and a new Marine Science Centre.

• The Coalition has provided additional funding to all our premier science agencies - CSIRO, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation and the Australian Institute of Marine Science under their current triennium funding agreements.
• The Coalition is encouraging the private sector to increase its R&D through a new premium R&D tax concession, a tax rebate for small business R&D and an additional $535 million over the next 5 years for R&D Start grants.

Accelerating the Commercial Application of Ideas

• The Coalition has established a strong economy in which innovation can prosper. World-leading economic growth, low inflation and low interest rates mean businesses have the profits to invest in R&D.

• Tax reform has strengthened the tax base which allows ongoing government support for innovation. Tax cuts and reforms to capital gains tax increase our attractiveness to venture capital.

• The Coalition will extend venture capital tax concessions as part of the Government’s major effort to boost investment in venture capital. The Government will provide venture capital limited partnerships with flow through taxation treatment. This will provide Australia with a world’s best practice investment vehicle for venture capital.

• The Coalition is providing significant funding to a range of measures to encourage commercialisation in the public and private sectors. Over the next 5 years our plan includes expanding Cooperative Research Centres with additional funding of $227 million, establishing the $79 million Pre-Seed Fund, $40 million additional funding for the Biotechnology Innovation Fund and $221 million for the Innovation Investment Fund.

Developing and Retaining Australian Skills

• The Coalition’s plan includes a range of measures to be delivered over the next 5 years to develop skills: additional funding for science learning in schools; 21,000 equivalent full-time additional university places with an emphasis on science, maths and ICT; and postgraduate loans of $995 million to encourage life-long learning.

• One hundred and twenty-five Federation Fellowships will be awarded over the next 5 years to encourage our best and brightest researchers to work in Australia and to encourage Australian researchers working overseas to return home.

• Awareness of the importance of innovation is being promoted to school children and the wider community through the new $35 million National Innovation Awareness Strategy.
A Strong Framework for Policy Development

- The Prime Minister’s Science, Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC), established by the Coalition, will continue to provide high-level advice on science and innovation issues. The Council membership includes leading researchers, business leaders, scientists and academics, and is chaired by the Prime Minister with six Cabinet Ministers as Council Members.

- A Chief Scientist working both in the public and private sectors remains the best source of relevant advice to government. The enthusiastic efforts of the former Chief Scientist, Dr John Stocker, and the current Chief Scientist, Dr Robin Batterham, have raised the profile of science in the community and ensured that PMSEIC has played a major role in the Coalition’s policy development for science and innovation.
Part 1 Strengthening Our Ability to Generate Ideas and Undertake Research

A Our Commitment to Science: Backing Australia’s Ability

A strong research capacity is vital to ensuring the flow of new ideas which underpin innovation. The building blocks of basic research are fundamental to generating the discoveries which can be converted into innovative products and services.

Government has a role in encouraging research by directly supporting R&D by universities and public sector research agencies, and by encouraging companies to increase their R&D efforts.

The Coalition will continue to provide support for world-leading scientific facilities and research excellence. Our $3 billion Backing Australia’s Ability plan announced by the Prime Minister in January 2001 is the largest single investment in science and innovation by any Australian government. We are also delivering on these policies with significant benefits flowing already to the scientific, research, education and business sectors.

(i) Strengthening public research

The Coalition will provide an additional $736 million to the Australian Research Council for national competitive research grants - doubling the ARC’s funding over the next five years.

This is in addition to the doubling of funding for medical research announced by the Coalition in 1999, providing additional funding of $614 million.

(ii) Strengthening research infrastructure

The Coalition has announced funding of $155 million for fifteen new Major National Research Facilities around Australia. The successful application for centres was announced on 21 August 2001.

Two Centres of Excellence in ICT and biotechnology will be established at a cost of $176 million, building our critical mass in these two vital growing industries. Guidelines for each Centre have been released, with the successful applicants for each Centre to be announced in the middle of 2002.

Over the next five years, universities will receive an additional $246 million for infrastructure such as laboratory equipment and libraries,
while recipients of ARC and NH&MRC grants will receive an additional $337 million for project specific infrastructure.

The Coalition has provided $15 million for the establishment of the Institute of Molecular Biology at the University of Queensland, strengthening our ability to undertake biotechnological research.

The Coalition has also provided $12 million to establish the National Marine Science Centre at Coffs Harbour, being jointly managed by the University of New England and Southern Cross University.

(iii) **Strengthening our public sector research agencies**

The Coalition recognises the world class research undertaken by the Commonwealth’s three research agencies: CSIRO, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS). The Coalition has boosted funding for all three agencies in the course of their current triennium funding agreements by $45 million. The Coalition will recognise the research successes and increased commercialisation focus of all three agencies in negotiating their funding from 2003.

The Coalition will implement a review of the policy of external earnings targets to ensure the performance benchmarks to be met by scientific research agencies provide the optimal incentives for focused research and the commercialisation of that research.

The Coalition is requiring these agencies to develop detailed commercialisation strategies as part of their triennium funding agreements, to ensure that their research results in income and jobs.

(a) **CSIRO**

We will continue to strongly support the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in conducting scientific research to assist Australian industry and contribution to improving the quality of life for the Australian community.

Labor in Government failed to support CSIRO’s vital work. In 1995, when Kim Beazley was Finance Minister, Labor cut $20 million a year from CSIRO’s budget. This was restored by the Coalition in 1996.

Celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2001, CSIRO has found a renewed vigour under its new Chief Executive, Dr Geoff Garrett. The Coalition supports CSIRO’s new Strategic Action Plan and its goal of increasing earnings by 50 percent by 2006, especially through better commercialising CSIRO’s research and strategic priority setting of its research agenda.
The Coalition’s external earnings target review will assist CSIRO in particular in giving it greater flexibility to achieve these ambitious goals.

(b) **Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation**

The Coalition supports the vital work of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) in nuclear research, including its production of life-saving medical radioisotopes which help 350,000 Australian patients a year, the application of world-class nuclear technologies across a range of industries, and in safeguarding our national interest through nuclear non-proliferation.

The Coalition is committed to the construction of a replacement research reactor at Lucas Heights. This $300 million facility will be the largest single scientific infrastructure investment ever in Australia, greatly enhancing researchers’ access and its benefits to industry.

The Coalition has boosted ANSTO’s budget by $8 million a year in recognition of the quality of its research outputs.

Labor continues to threaten the future of the 800 workers at ANSTO by promising to cancel the replacement reactor construction contract. Kim Beazley has refused to silence the threats of his shadow ministers. Kim Beazley must show leadership and commit Labor to honouring the contract.

The Coalition remains committed to the responsible handling of spent fuel from Lucas Heights, through reprocessing at the COGEMA facility in France then return to Australia from 2015 for storage in a national store. The nationwide search for the site for this store has commenced with an expert advisory group currently preparing the criteria to apply to the search.

Labor in Government continued to allow spent fuel stockpiles to grow at Lucas Heights, failing to ever decide on a strategy for responsible handling. And even now Labor has no policy approach for dealing with spent fuel.

(c) **Australian Institute of Marine Science**

The Coalition will continue to support the Australian Institute of Marine Science which generates knowledge to support the sustainable use and protection of Australia’s marine environment through innovative, world-class scientific and technological research.

The Coalition has supported AIMS’s world-leading tropical marine research through a number of measures.
The Government provided $12.85 million to AIMS to expand and renovate its Cape Ferguson laboratories; $3.47 million to design and build its research vessel, the RV Cape Ferguson; and $0.69 million to refurbish the RV Lady Basten (a total of $17 million).

Additionally, the Coalition has provided $3.25m to AIMS to construct a new marine laboratory in Darwin.

(iv) **Strengthening private sector research**

To encourage companies to increase their R&D intensity, the Coalition has recently passed legislation to introduce a premium 175 percent R&D tax concession on additional investment, while retaining the general 125 percent R&D tax concession. This measure will provide $460 million over the next 5 years to support at least $4.3 billion of business expenditure on R&D.

Small business will be assisted by the Coalition’s tax rebate for the R&D tax concession, meaning companies in tax loss will access immediate assistance from the concession.

The Coalition is providing an additional $535 million in START grants to business to support R&D over the next 5 years, continuing the success of this program.

(v) **Case Studies**

(a) **Biotechnology**

The Coalition recognises biotechnology as a priority sector for government support. In 2000, the Coalition released a National Biotechnology Strategy to provide a framework for development of this key industry, including the establishment of Biotechnology Australia.

The Coalition is providing over $300 million per annum for R&D in biotechnology (or over 9 percent of total Commonwealth research funding) - through specific biotechnology programs, through generic funding programs such as R&D START grants, and through science agencies such as CSIRO.

Under the Coalition, the NH&MRC allocated 16.8 percent of research funding to biotechnology, 20.9 percent of CRC research is in biotechnology and 11 percent of R&D Start grants fund biotechnology research.

Two of the Coalition’s Innovation Investment Funds provide early stage venture capital to life science companies.
On top of this $300 million a year, the Coalition’s Major National Research Facilities program is providing $63.25 million for biotechnology research infrastructure, funding facilities such as the Australian Genome Research Facility, the Australian Proteome Analysis Facility, and the National Centre for Advanced Cell Engineering.

The Coalition is also providing $15 million for the establishment of the Institute of Molecular Biology at the University of Queensland.

The Biotechnology Innovation Fund will provide $20 million over the next 3 years in supporting small start-up companies to bring their technology to proof of concept stage: $6 million out of a total $40 million has been allocated to 27 companies so far, to develop cutting-edge technology such as cancer treatments.

The Coalition’s policies are proving to be highly effective in driving this important cutting-edge area of research. The number of biotechnology companies has grown by 60 percent in the past two years.

Between the early 1990s and late 1990s, the number of Australian-invented US patents on biotechnology grew by 248 percent, the fastest rate in the world - and twice the growth rate of US biotechnology patents.

(b) Space industry

The Coalition is strongly committed to the development of an Australian space launch industry.

We have established the Space Licensing and Safety Office, and finalised the regulatory framework for space launches which will implement the regulatory and safety regime for commercial space activities in Australia. For the first time, commercial space launch activities will happen from Australia.

The Coalition has provided $100 million for infrastructure to secure the proposed $800 million Asia Pacific Space Centre spaceport on Christmas Island.

The Coalition is facilitating two proposals for space launches from Woomera, and is working with the US and Russian Governments to advance the proposals.

A space launch industry will generate technology transfer to Australia and lead to the growth of spin-off Australian industries, such as in satellite manufacturing.
The Coalition is providing $18.6 million to the Cooperative Research Centre for Satellite Systems to support research in this field.

The Coalition is also working with NASA to investigate the possible use of Australia as a landing site for the International Space Station's Crew Recovery Vehicle.

The Coalition has established an International Space Advisory Group to advise on Australia's involvement in the International Space Station.

The briefing of Cabinet by Australian astronaut, Dr Andy Thomas, on space issues in 2001 demonstrates the Coalition’s continuing high-level interest in space issues.
Part 2  Accelerating the Commercial Application of Ideas

A  Turning Ideas Into Jobs

Australia has a great history of scientific discovery. But as the Coalition’s Innovation Summit highlighted, Australia’s record in the past on commercialising those discoveries needs improvement.

The Coalition is committed to implementing a comprehensive range of measures to translate the promise of discovery into new products, services and treatments - delivering more jobs, better health and greater prosperity to all Australians.

(i) The Right Framework for Commercialisation

Profitable companies and a sound economy are vital prerequisites for commercialisation. Under the Coalition, strong economic growth, low inflation and low interest rates have paved the way for an economy outpacing the world.

Tax reform under the Coalition has delivered the strong tax base to fund support for science and innovation, while a lower corporate tax rate and reform of the capital gains tax has greatly increased our attractiveness to venture capital.

The Coalition will continue to monitor the impact of the new business tax arrangements.

The Coalition will extend venture capital tax concessions as part of its major effort to boost investment in venture capital, and will provide venture capital limited partnerships with flow through taxation treatment. This will provide Australia with a world’s best practice investment vehicle for venture capital.

The new venture capital measures will ensure a better flow of capital into Australia to support the small start-up ventures which are helping to build the jobs and industries of the future by commercialising our scientific discoveries.

Strong protection and clear ownership of intellectual property rights is important in attracting commercial interest to a concept. The Coalition has made a number of reforms to our intellectual property (IP) system. A re-elected Coalition Government will continue to pursue IP reforms including requiring universities to improve their management of IP as a condition of block grant funding, and considering a ‘use it or lose it’ approach if further IP management incentives are needed.
(ii) The Right Support for Commercialisation

The Coalition is increasing funding for commercialisation by 80 percent over the next five years through its Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) program. Centres such as the Photonics CRC, have led the development of new Australian industries through research collaboration. This $227 million increase in funding will allow more and larger CRCs, while providing existing CRCs with access to greater funding for additional research programs and commercialisation activities.

The Commercialising Emerging Technologies (COMET) program has been doubled in size by the Coalition. An extra $40 million over the next five years will enhance the assistance available to firms for improving their commercialisation skills.

While Australia punches above its weight by producing 2 percent of the world’s science output, the Coalition’s $100 million Innovation Access Program will give Australian researchers and industry over the next 5 years access to the other 98 percent of technology.

Under Backing Australia’s Ability, the Coalition is establishing a Pre-Seed Fund to give universities and science agencies access to finance and expertise to bring proposals to a venture capital ready stage. Expressions of interest have been called for establishing the funds, which will augment the $78.7 million in Commonwealth funding over the next five years with private capital.

In 1997, the Coalition established the Innovation Investment Fund program. We have invested $221 million in nine funds, which provide equity capital to early stage companies. The IIF program has contributed to the rapid growth of a venture capital industry in Australia - the industry has grown by 169 per cent over the past 3 years under the Coalition.

The Coalition is providing $40 million over the next 3 years to start-up biotechnology firms through the Biotechnology Innovation Fund to assist in bringing their discoveries to proof of concept stage.

The Coalition will also initiate a trade fair of ideas to put researchers in touch with potential investors, and a commercialisation forum to share experience in commercialising.

Superannuation funds are a potential further source of significant funding for Australian innovation. The Coalition will continue to work with the superannuation industry to examine barriers to support for innovation. In addition, the Coalition will not mandate where superannuation funds should make their investments.
Part 3 Developing and Retaining Australian Skills

A Smarter, better jobs

Skilled and motivated innovators are the most essential element in building Australia’s science base. We must strengthen our skills base while providing the incentives for our best and brightest to stay in, or return to, Australia.

(i) Brain Gain

A recent Monash University study has found that in the last five years, rather than suffering a brain drain, Australia has benefited from a brain gain of more than 155,000 skilled workers.

The Coalition has also recently passed legislation to attract more ICT workers to Australia. Our plan will make it easier for overseas students who have qualified in Australia to remain here, and priority is being given to processing overseas ICT professionals applying under the Temporary Business (Long Stay) Visa and the skilled stream of the migration program.

To enhance our ability to retain and attract skilled professionals, the Coalition is providing $151 million over five years for 21,000 additional full-time equivalent university places, with an emphasis on ICT, science and maths.

The Coalition’s Postgraduate Education Loans Scheme will provide $995 million over 5 years to encourage Australians to upgrade and acquire new skills. Legislation to implement the scheme has already been enacted, and it is anticipated that demand for the scheme will see many Australians updating their skills through further postgraduate study.

To attract and retain world-class researchers, the Coalition will provide 125 Federation Fellowships worth $225,000 per annum over the next five years. In September 2001, 15 of these Fellowships were awarded by the Prime Minister, including to scientists working overseas who will be returning to Australia.

Government schools will receive an additional $130 million a year in States which trigger the EBA, to foster science and maths.
(ii) **Innovation Awareness**

The Coalition has introduced the National Innovation Awareness Strategy to raise understanding of innovation. Under the strategy, the Coalition will provide funding of $35 million for the next 5 years for grants to a range of organisations to promote activities such as National Science Week, the Science Olympiads and the Prime Minister’s Prize for Science. The members of the new National Innovation Awareness Council, established by the Coalition to provide advice on building awareness, will act as champions of innovation in the wider community.
Part 4  A Strong Framework for Policy Development

A  Strengthening policy development

Effective science policy development requires a consultative approach, incorporating views from across the innovation system.

(i)  Prime Minister’s Science, Engineering and Innovation Council

The Coalition has established the Prime Minister’s Science, Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC) to provide high-level advice on science and innovation issues. The Council membership includes leading researchers, business leaders, scientists and academics, and is chaired by the Prime Minister with six Cabinet Ministers as Council Members.

The strength of PMSEIC is in its focus on science and innovation issues - its membership makes for a cohesive group providing timely advice. A larger committee handling a multitude of issues, such as Labor’s proposed Knowledge Nation Committee, would be unwieldy and ineffective.

The Coalition believes that a Chief Scientist working both in the public and private sectors remains the best source of relevant advice to government. The enthusiastic efforts of the former Chief Scientist, Dr John Stocker, and the current Chief Scientist, Dr Robin Batterham, have raised the profile of science in the community and ensured that PMSEIC has played a major role in the Coalition’s policy development for science and innovation.

(ii)  Commonwealth-State Cooperation

The Coalition is seeking stronger Commonwealth State cooperation on innovation issues including through the establishment in 2001 of the refocused Commonwealth State Ministerial Council on Industry and Technology.
Highlights of the Government’s Achievements

- Record spending on science and innovation of $4.7 billion in 2000-01, an annual increase of 7 percent from 1999-2000.

- Staged the National Innovation Summit in February 2000 and implemented many of its recommendations in *Backing Australia’s Ability*.

- Received and comprehensively responded to the key report on Australia’s science capability, *A Chance to Change*, by the Chief Scientist.

- Following extensive consultation with the research, academic and business communities, the Coalition announced *Backing Australia’s Ability* in January 2001, providing a record $3 billion in additional funding over 5 years for science and innovation.

- Highlights include:
  - Improved incentives for promoting business R&D, including introducing a new 175% premium rate for the R&D tax concession, and a new cash rebate for small businesses.
  - Doubling of funding for the Australian Research Council for competitive research grants.
  - $941 million for university and other research infrastructure, including 15 Major National Research Facilities
  - Extending the R&D Start program with additional funding of $535m.

- Increased funding of $45 million was provided to the major science agencies, enabling CSIRO, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation and the Australian Institute of Marine Science to expand their research capacity.

- The $300 million replacement nuclear reactor - Australia’s largest ever single infrastructure investment in science and technology, was approved by the Coalition.

- The National Biotechnology Strategy was established with the Coalition spending $300 million each year on biotechnology innovation.

- Funding for medical research was doubled by the Coalition from $165 million in 1998-99 to more than $250 million in 2004-05. The total investment of new money over the next 6 years will be $614 million.
• The Prime Minister’s Science, Engineering and Innovation Council has been established, providing vital advice to assist in developing science and innovation at the highest levels of government.

• Provision of $941 million over the next 5 years for university and other research infrastructure, including an Institute of Molecular Biology and a new Marine Science Centre.
Labor’s Record

Labor failed in Government

Labor’s thirteen years in office were wasted time for Australian science and innovation which remained largely neglected.

Labor’s own Knowledge Nation report admits that investment in knowledge in Australia fell between 1985 to 1996 - from 6.47 percent of GDP to 6.3 percent. Labor’s own report admits that in 1996, Labor left office with Australia in last place out of twelve selected nations in terms of investment in knowledge.

 Labor was simply not interested in science. In a recent radio interview, Labor’s former Science Minister, Barry Jones, described being Minister for Science as “the second worst job in Government”.

Kim Beazley demonstrated his lack of support for science when, as Finance Minister in 1995, he cut $20 million per annum from CSIRO’s base funding (which was restored by the Coalition in 1996).

Labor risked Australia’s reputation as a premier location for world-class science by allowing our research infrastructure to decline, and by neglecting the standards of science and mathematics in our schools.

Under Labor, the poor record of commercialisation of Australian research and development was not properly addressed, contributing to a major trade deficit in technology-based products.

Labor has failed in Opposition

In five and a half years in Opposition, Labor has failed to come up with any comprehensive science and innovation policy.

Labor has left open the possibility of reprioritising or cutting back the Government’s $3 billion Backing Australia’s Ability science and innovation initiatives. Mr Beazley has ignored the fact that these policies were developed after long consultation processes with the scientific, research, education and business sectors.

Labor’s proposed higher R&D tax concession for public sector R&D is far too narrow, complex and prescriptive. Labor’s policy fails to provide incentives that encourage business to increase their level of R&D, and fails to do anything to encourage the innovative, world-class research that businesses do themselves.

And for all its bizarre diagrams and inflated rhetoric, Labor has still not produced the substantive policies to deliver a Knowledge Nation.
Labor’s ‘Noodle’ Nation ignores the crucial stage at which research is commercialised – when ideas become viable and, in so doing, fund further ideas and create new jobs.

Since Knowledge Nation was released, Mr Beazley has announced a Knowledge Nation Summit, a Knowledge Nation Parliamentary Committee, a Knowledge Nation cabinet committee, a Knowledge Nation Unit in the bureaucracy and a Knowledge Nation Council – showing Labor is promising the dead hand of bureaucracy rather than genuine support for science and innovation.