

Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist Strategic Plan 2021-2023

The Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist contributes to building a community that values science and recognises the positive impacts it can have on developing solutions to challenges faced by Queensland.

The Office

The Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist supports the Queensland Chief Scientist to:

- lead science strategy and the provision of evidence-based scientific advice to government
- promote Queensland's science and research capabilities
- engage with the community, including students, to raise scientific awareness and knowledge that enables Queenslanders to make informed decisions
- engage with the science community and industry to identify opportunities for collaboration and innovation
- work with stakeholders from across Queensland to ensure benefits from scientific advancements are translated and accessible
- encourage science, technology, engineering, maths (STEM) engagement across the community, particularly with young people.

Collaboration

The Queensland Chief Scientist holds a unique position in Queensland's science and innovation landscape, engaging stakeholders from across research, industry, government, not-for-profit and community organisations.

The Queensland Chief Scientist works with stakeholders from science and industry to build networks and foster relationships as well as identify opportunities for partnership and mitigate barriers to cooperation.

Collaboration between science and industry brings fresh perspectives and approaches to research that can lead to breakthroughs of discovery and accelerate the transformation of knowledge into innovation and deliver positive economic benefits to Queensland.

Collaboration also has the potential to create new economies, new jobs and inspire current and future leaders.

Advice

The Queensland Chief Scientist provides scientific advice to shape government policy through analysis, evidence-based decision-making, and accessing research, industry, and government stakeholders.

The Queensland Chief Scientist advises the Queensland Government about energy, resource, and environmental sectors, STEM education and research, as well as capability building relating to manufacturing, health, community development and urban and regional planning.

The Queensland Chief Scientist also works closely with Queensland's research institutions to share contemporary scientific developments with community leaders, legislators, and other relevant stakeholders.

The Queensland Chief Scientist leads the development of Science and Research Priorities of government science and research funding to guide expenditure and ensure any future investments provide value for money and are well-aligned with Queensland Government objectives.

Scientific Literacy

More of Queensland's jobs will require critical thinking and information processing skills as our knowledge-based economy grows.

Scientific literacy enables Queenslanders to explore and examine ideas, be better informed, and methodically develop evidence-based solutions to the challenges we face.

The Queensland Chief Scientist promotes increased scientific literacy, especially in young people, to build the foundation for the jobs of the future and nurture interest across STEM industries.

It also better equips Queenslanders with vital competencies, drives innovation and productivity, and delivers economic growth for Queensland.

Scientific literacy empowers Queenslanders to be better informed and make critical decisions in professional and personal lives.

The Queensland Chief Scientist promotes Queensland's scientific achievements, awards and events and encourages participation in science activities and careers to build scientific literacy in the community.

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Example Programs

Engaging Queenslanders in Science

The Engaging Queenslanders in Science Strategy (EQSS) demonstrates the importance and impact of science in the community and builds a shared understanding and appreciation of science, innovation and STEM skills.

The EQSS will contribute to a Queensland that engages in, recognises, and values science.

Citizen Science

Citizen Science is another way to raise awareness of science in our community, build community understanding of science, enable community members to participate in science, and foster collaboration between scientists and community members.

Queensland Scientific Collections

The Office of the Chief Scientist is working with the holders of Queensland's scientific collections to raise the profile and value placed by the community, improve access, share information, coordinate activity, and optimise the scientific potential of Queensland's unique scientific and historic items.

Forum of Australian Chief Scientists

The Forum of Australian Chief Scientists brings together Australia's state and commonwealth Chief Scientists to identify common issues, share information, and collaborate on solutions. The forum regularly includes discussion of issues that impact Queenslanders such as energy security, women in STEM, education and research infrastructure and national health initiatives.

Deputy Vice Chancellors of Research Roundtable

The Queensland Chief Scientist chairs the Queensland Deputy Vice Chancellors of Research Roundtable to promote communication, collaboration, engagement and commitment across all nine research universities in Queensland.

Emerging Industries

The Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist, in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Science, Trade and Investment Queensland, the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, and other stakeholders developed a strategic, interactive map of the more than 300 research centres, institutes and hubs to promote Queensland's strengths in research and innovation in seven knowledge-intensive industries:

- Advanced food and agriculture
- Advanced manufacturing, advanced materials, and biomanufacturing
- Next generation aerospace, defence, and transport technologies
- Biomedical; personalised and preventative healthcare
- Smart mining, exploration, and extraction
- Sustainable energy
- Sustainable natural and managed ecosystems and the built environment

<https://science.des.qld.gov.au/investment/scienceemergingindustries>

Queensland Science and Research Priorities

The Science and Research Priorities are accompanied by Decision Rules for Investment which ensures Queensland Government investment in research and development delivers beneficial outcomes for Queensland.

Policy Support

The Queensland Chief Scientist contributes to Government Policy Development through specific initiatives and through chairing and membership of various advisory committees.

The Queensland Chief Scientist also promotes science and innovation to support the Department of Environment and Science's Strategic Plan:

- Conserve and restore Queensland's unique biodiversity, heritage and protected areas
- Enable job creation, and the growth of new industries and environmental markets
- Protect World Heritage areas including the Great Barrier Reef
- Empower Queensland's youth
- Strengthen and harness Queensland's scientific excellence
- Deliver a world class environmental, heritage and biodiscovery regulatory system.

https://www.des.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0024/204486/des-strategic-plan-2020-24.pdf