



Office of the  
**Queensland  
Chief Scientist**

# Queensland Chief Scientist

## Professor Bronwyn Harch

Professor Bronwyn Harch was appointed the interim Queensland Chief Scientist in October 2022.

With a background in statistics and data science, Professor Harch has significant research and innovation leadership experience. She comes to the position having recently held the role of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Research and Innovation) for The University of Queensland.

Professor Harch has also held key leadership roles at both QUT and CSIRO.

She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Science (with Honours) in Australian Environmental Studies, a Graduate Diploma in Secondary Teaching and a PhD in applied statistics.

Born in Queensland, Professor Harch is passionate about scientific and innovation endeavours that make our communities more secure, resilient and sustainable.

Professor Harch currently serves on several national and state boards and advisory committees relating to science and innovation including the Federal Government Future Drought Fund Hub Advisory Committee, the AgResearch New Zealand Science Advisory Panel and the Queensland Government Innovation Advisory Council and was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering in 2015.



# Our purpose

The Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist:

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

The Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist contributes to a state that values science and recognises the impacts it has on developing solutions to the challenges faced by society.



# Scientific advice

The Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist helps shape government policy through analysis, evidence-based decision-making, and accessing research, industry, and government stakeholders.

Queensland's scientific research encompasses all aspects of our community, not just those traditionally associated with science and technology.

The Office is called upon by the Queensland Government to provide advice on issues such as energy, resource, and environmental sectors, STEM education and research, as well as capability building related to manufacturing, health, community development and planning.

The Office works closely with Queensland's research institutions to ensure community leaders, legislators, and stakeholders are informed about contemporary scientific developments.

## **Return on investment approach for public good research investment and partnerships**

helps to identify the most effective research and highest priorities for funding which are likely to cost-effectively deliver outcomes for Queenslanders.

## **Decision Rules for Investment**

helps ensure that investment in research and development by the Queensland Government delivers beneficial outcomes related to Queensland's unique challenges and opportunities.



The office's science and innovation priorities align with the Queensland Government's vision for the state and its plan to build future prosperity and growth. The plan's long-term objectives for Queensland are:



**Good jobs: good, secure jobs in our traditional and emerging industries**



**Better services: deliver better services in areas such as health, education, transport and community safety**



**Great lifestyle: protect and enhance our lifestyle by attracting talent and investment, protecting the environment, and creating opportunities for First Nations people to thrive in a modern Queensland.**

For more information on the Queensland Government's priorities visit:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/about/how-government-works/objectives-for-the-community>

# Collaboration

Collaboration between scientists brings fresh perspectives and approaches to research that can lead to breakthroughs of discovery and innovative solutions to challenges.

Collaboration between science and industry can accelerate the transformation of knowledge into innovation and deliver economic benefits to Queenslanders. It also has the potential to create new economies, new jobs and inspire current and future leaders.

The Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist works with stakeholders across science and industry to foster relationships, identify opportunities for partnership and mitigate barriers to cooperation.

## Queensland Research Leaders Forum

The Queensland Chief Scientist chairs the forum to promote communication, collaboration, engagement and commitment across Queensland universities and research institutes including the Australian Institute of Marine Science, CSIRO, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Centre and the Translational Research Institute.

## Research Translation and Commercialisation Forum

Queensland's leaders of research partnerships, translation and commercialisation meet quarterly to collaboratively advance the state's translation and commercialisation opportunities and explore ideas that will achieve the greatest outcomes for Queenslanders.

The Office, in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Science, worked with stakeholders to map the more than 300 research centres, institutes and hubs to promote Queensland's strengths in research and innovation in seven knowledge-intensive industries.

➔ [qld.gov.au/ScienceEmergingIndustries](http://qld.gov.au/ScienceEmergingIndustries)

- ⚙️ Advanced manufacturing
- 🧪 Biotechnology
- 🔧 Engineering
- 🌿 Environment and nature
- 🌾 Food and agriculture
- 🏥 Health and medical
- 💻 ICT and multimedia
- 🧬 Life sciences
- ☀️ Tropical

**QUEENSLAND**  
Cutting edge research  
Focusing on  
emerging industries

# 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.

Increased scientific literacy, especially in young people, builds the foundation for the jobs of the future and nurtures interest across science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) industries.

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

The Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist promotes Queensland scientific achievements, awards and events and encourages participation in science activities and careers. This builds familiarity of science across the community and increases scientific literacy.

**Engaging Queenslanders in science strategy 2021–24** builds a shared understanding across the community of the importance of science, innovation and STEM education to achieve a Queensland that values science, critical thinking and evidence-based decision making in everyday life.

The strategy aims to increase student and community engagement with scientists and participation in science-based events and activities including citizen science projects, as well as promote the great work being carried out by our outstanding scientists and researchers.



More than  
**\$2 million**  
in engaging  
science grants

Almost  
**\$1.2 million**  
in citizen science  
grants

# Impacts

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## Economic

The Office supports emerging knowledge-based industries and jobs in Queensland through the promotion of our science and innovation capabilities and collaboration between research and industry, which attracts investment in new economies.



## Innovation

The Office fosters partnerships to turn scientific knowledge, technology and practices into innovation, helping solve the big challenges faced by Queensland.



## Engagement


The Office drives greater engagement in STEM across Queensland which enables Queenslanders to make evidence-based decisions and identify opportunities for learning and growth in their professional and personal lives.





For more information about the Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist:

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 #qldscience

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