



Opening statement – Dr Larry Marshall, CSIRO
Senate Estimates, February 2022

Thank you, Chair.

Since we last met, Team CSIRO has been busy collaborating across the system to turn Australian science into solutions that benefit all Australians.

Whether it be creating Australia's most advanced model for predicting and beating bushfires in collaboration with the NSW Rural Fire Service; collaborating across the agricultural system to deliver new strains of drought-resistant wheat; or releasing a landmark study in partnership with the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions on preserving Australia's biodiversity, we are working broadly across sectors to catalyse innovation and deliver impact.

Our vision is to create a better future for all Australians by helping all parts of our world-class research sector to better connect with industry, so we can get more brilliant inventions out of the lab and into our lives. We're proud to work with every major Australian university, and to manage National Labs to help supercharge Australian research. We recently added a new lunar testbed to help researchers and businesses preparing to head to the Moon, and we look forward to working with universities to access our test lab facilities as part of the Trailblazer Program.

We also work with thousands of businesses across every sector to drive sustainable innovation and growth. For example, together with the Commonwealth Bank, we're combining climate and financial data to help boost resilience to climate risk in the finance sector, and under a new five-year R&D program with Boeing, we're collaborating to create a more sustainable aviation industry.

Our purpose is to solve Australia's greatest challenges, and so we are always looking ahead to capture opportunities for the nation. With the establishment of the National AI Centre, we're laying the foundations for an Australian AI and digital ecosystem worth a potential \$315 billion to the national economy by 2028.¹ We're collaborating broadly to launch new Missions to help Australia build resilience and lead in key areas like the pathway to net zero and ending plastic waste. Looking further ahead, we're investing in breakthrough science in new areas like Revolutionary Energy Storage Systems, Immune Resilience, Permanent Carbon Locking, and Advanced Engineering Biology – all areas of future science that will set Australia up to lead on the world stage.

We are your national science agency, and 2022 is shaping up to be another year of Team CSIRO delivering billions in value for Australia in economic, social, and environmental impact.

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¹ [Seizing the AI opportunity in Australia – Algorithm \(csiro.au\)](https://www.csiro.au/algorithm)