

17 March 2026

Senator the Hon Tim Ayres  
Minister for Industry and Innovation  
Minister for Science  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
Via email: [minister@industry.gov.au](mailto:minister@industry.gov.au), [senator.ayres@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.ayres@aph.gov.au),  
The Hon Jim Chalmers MP, the Hon Jason Clare MP

Dear Ministers,

Australia's five Learned Academies and the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) welcome the release of the final report of the Strategic Examination of Research and Development and express our support for meaningful structural reform by Government.

The Strategic Examination provides a rare opportunity to reshape Australia's RD&I system for the decades ahead. We urge the Government to act with ambition and urgency. The time for incremental adjustments has passed; decisive action is now required.

We commend the independent panel, chaired by Robyn Denholm, for its thorough and thoughtful work. We recognise that the panel has undertaken an extensive process of consultation and analysis, and its report presents a clear-eyed assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of Australia's RD&I system. The result is a roadmap for reform.

At a time when global competition in science, technology, research and innovation is intensifying, the Strategic Examination identifies structural challenges that prevent Australia from putting its best foot forward, and provides solutions to reset and focus our national approach to RD&I.

The Strategic Examination makes clear that the nation's prosperity, resilience and capability will increasingly depend on the strength and effectiveness of its RD&I system. The findings reinforce what the Learned Academies, ACOLA and others across the research and innovation sector have been warning for some time: Australia's entire RD&I system is under significant strain. Investment has fallen far behind that of our international peers, and the settings that support discovery, translation and adoption are no longer fit for purpose.

Its recommendations offer an ambitious path to strengthen Australia's RD&I capability, improve coordination across the system, and ensure that new knowledge is translated into economic, social and environmental benefit for the nation. At the same time, the Learned Academies and ACOLA continue to emphasise the need to strengthen mechanisms that provide trusted, transparent and independent evidence-based advice to Government.

Implementation will require sustained commitment, strategic investment and collaboration across sectors. Australia's Learned Academies and ACOLA stand ready to work with the Australian Government, industry and the broader RD&I community to progress the report's recommendations. The Learned Academies are uniquely placed to convene experts and other stakeholders to inform the Government's implementation decisions.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you and other stakeholders to discuss how we can support the Government in this important work.

Yours sincerely,

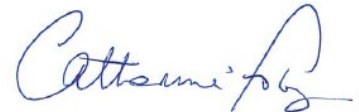


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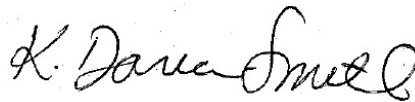
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