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An Australian Perspective  
on Science and Policy

John Vines  
Chief Executive  
APESMA



## Australian Context

- Federal Government and 8 state/territory governments
- Federal Government
  - Industry R & D Incentive Scheme
  - Health & Medical Research
  - Australian Research Grants
  - CSIRO & other research agencies
  - CRC program

## Australian Context

- State/Territory Governments
  - Primary industry research
  - Health research
  - Biotechnology research
- Science increasingly seen as being important to economic/community development and a source of competitive economic advantage

## External Earnings Targets

- Pressure for research bodies to attract external (non-government) funding. 30% external earnings target.
- Pendulum swinging in relation to the change in research emphasis from “public good” to “commercial” research and back again.



## Advisory Mechanisms

- Prime Minister's Science Engineering & Innovation Council – provides a high level forum for the PM and senior ministers to engage in discussion
- Industry Sector R & D boards e.g.:
  - Rural Industry R & D Corporation
  - Forest Industry R & D Corporation
  - Mining Industry R & D Corporation
  - Sugar Industry R & D Corporation



## Key Issues in Science

- Debate about Research Quality Framework
- Low level of private sector R & D
- Funding of major research infrastructure
- Competition between state governments to attract science based industry (e.g. bio tech)



## Key Issues in Science

- Retaining and attracting high quality researchers
- Commercialisation of science research outcomes
- Science priorities for 2020



## A Voice for Scientists in Australia

- Numerous specific interest/professional societies
- Major professional unions representing university staff, CSIRO staff, and private sector staff
- Single voice at the national level provided by the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS) including Science Meets Parliament



## Reference Web Sites

- Federal Govt: [www.dest.gov.au](http://www.dest.gov.au)
- FASTS: [www.fast.org.au](http://www.fast.org.au)
- Unions: [www.apesma.asn.au](http://www.apesma.asn.au)  
[www.nteu.org.au](http://www.nteu.org.au)  
[www.cpsu.org.au](http://www.cpsu.org.au)

