

CPD welcomes new CSIRO missions for Australia's recovery and resilience

12 August 2020

The Centre for Policy Development (CPD) welcomes today's announcement of a new CSIRO missions program to unlock science, innovation and collaboration to address Australia's greatest challenges.

CSIRO CEO Dr Larry Marshall launched the new program at the National Press Club, announcing a new "mission of recovery and resilience" to help Australia rebuild from the twin crises of COVID-19 and the bushfires.

CPD CEO Travers McLeod said CSIRO's expanded focus on large-scale, collaborative missions could help deliver the breakthroughs Australia needs to secure a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable future.

"These missions provide a huge chance for government, researchers, business, unions and communities to work together on challenges defining this century and plot our way out of COVID-19", Mr McLeod said.

"The COVID-19 crisis has shattered any remaining complacency that the old model was working. We need a new approach. Today's announcement by CSIRO shows that our most innovative and respected institutions are ready to meet this challenge head on."

"For too long, neither the public nor private sectors in Australia have had the capability, confidence or incentives to chase bold missions together. It is encouraging to see this approach taking hold at CSIRO and across government at a critical time for shaping our future."

"It is particularly pleasing to see two CSIRO missions focussed on the economic and financial impacts of climate change. One mission seeks to build national climate capability to navigate climate change uncertainty, while another will use technology to help Australian communities transition to net zero emissions."

"Climate risk is an area where greater collaboration between public and private sectors is overdue" Mr McLeod said. "CPD's November 2019 Business Roundtable on Climate and Sustainability highlighted the urgent need for a new national mission to understand and respond to system-level climate impacts and plan our responses. We look forward to continuing to work with CSIRO as this new collaboration takes shape."

In 2018, CPD hosted the first Australian visit by University College London Professor Mariana Mazzucato, who is founding director of the UCL Institute for Innovation & Public Purpose. Professor Mazzucato's pioneering work on mission-led innovation has been adopted by governments around the world. She delivered CPD's 2018 John Menadue Oration, highlighting how governments can collaborate to drive innovation, create economic value and solve our biggest economic, social and environmental challenges.

"Mariana Mazzucato's visit 18 months ago was a clarion call for a mission-oriented approach in Australia to unlocking innovation and influencing the shape and direction of our future growth." Mr McLeod said.

"Australians have been crying out for new ways to address the lack of complexity in our economy, inequity in our communities, and the unsustainability of our growth model. Today's announcement by CSIRO signals a fresh resolve to invest in the capability of our public sector and drive collaboration between government, business and Australian communities to unlock a better future for all.

Further information on Professor Mazzucato's visit is available here: <https://cpd.org.au/26667-2/>
Media Contact: Jeremy McEachern | T: 0420 883 468 | E: jeremy.mceachern@cpd.org.au