

Media Release

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AusBiotech Ramps up WA Presence

AusBiotech, Australia's Biotechnology organisation, has announced a significant boost to its local presence with the creation of the new role of Western Australian State Manager.

Reporting directly to the CEO, the new State Manager position is the first of its kind within the national organisation.

National CEO of AusBiotech, Dr Anna Lavelle, said the decision to upgrade the organisation's presence in Western Australia reflects the Board's determination to ensure effective advocacy and leadership for the local biotechnology industry.

"The local industry has sometimes been overshadowed by the glare from the resources boom, so we created this position to ensure a strong, focussed presence in Western Australia and an ability to support the WA government's Biotechnology Industry Development Strategy", said Dr Lavelle.

"There's a natural limit to what you can dig out of the ground. Biotechnology will replace mining as the nation's economic powerhouse when the resources sector eases. We want to ensure Western Australia is ready for that inevitability.

Dr Lavelle said AusBiotech and the WA Branch was excited to have appointed Mr Darren Brown, former adviser to the Leader of the Opposition to the new role.

"Darren brings a unique and valuable skillset derived from his broad experience in politics, business and professional advocacy to the AusBiotech team.

"He has a great deal of experience with membership organisations and will utilise his excellent strategic communication skills to lead the members in a more focussed, positive direction," Dr Lavelle said.

New State Manager, Darren Brown said he was looking forward to taking up his new role.

"I'm under no illusion about the task ahead. It's tough to get the attention of local investors and decision makers while the resources sector is enjoying such a buoyant international commodity market," Mr Brown said.

"But I look forward to the challenge and I am genuinely excited about the future of the Western Australian Biotechnology Industry.

"It's obvious that there's a limited amount of resources to sell. We're here to ensure that the biotechnology industry continues to grow and receives due attention from those responsible for the future of our State beyond the current boom," Mr Brown said.

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