

Media Release



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Victorian biotechnology industry to gather in Geelong

AusBiotech, Australia's biotechnology industry organisation, will hold its annual Victorian conference in Geelong this Thursday and Friday (21-22 August).

AusBiotech CEO Dr Anna Lavelle said BioForum 08 would see around 100 biotechnology executives, scientists, investors and government representatives descend on Geelong.

"This year's conference program focuses on the theme of 'biotechnology means business' and will include sessions discussing the economic state of the industry, the successes and failures of Victorian biotech companies and sessions to allow input from delegates about challenges and issues the industry is facing," Dr Lavelle said.

"Victorian Government representatives will be presenting their recently released Innovation Statement and there will be a chance for participants to get involved in discussions about biotech policy directions."

To be held at Four Points by Sheraton in Geelong, the social highlights of BioForum 08 include a dinner at the waterfront restaurant Le Parisian and a networking event at the historic Carousel.

"This is the second time BioForum has been held in Geelong. It is an ideal background for this event, particularly given it is home to an important biotech cluster, BioGeelong, which includes Deakin University and ChemGenex," Dr Lavelle said.

Guest speakers include Dr James Campbell, Chair of BioGeelong, and Professor Andrew Parratt, Director of BioDeakin. Local biotechnology companies will also have the opportunity to hear from Matt McNamara, Investment Manager of the IB Australian Biosciences Fund, which invests in Australasian mid-stage life science companies.

Dr Lavelle thanked the Victorian Government for their support of the local biotechnology industry and as the major partner for this year's event.