

Media Release
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New Victorian Innovation Minister addresses shaping the future at biotech industry BioForum

The Victorian biotech community will have an opportunity to meet the new Victorian Minister for Innovation, The Hon. Gavin Jennings, at this week's AusBiotech Victorian State Branch major event, BioForum. BioForum is the inaugural Victorian flagship event hosted by AusBiotech and will be held at the Four Points Sheraton, Geelong, 16-17 August.

The Minister said "Australia is now an international leader in key areas of biotechnology, home to some of the world's best biotech research infrastructure and achieving a critical mass in commercialising our biotech. We are looking at very exciting future for Australian biotechnology but only if we keep working together to build on what's been achieved so far. AusBiotech's BioForum '07 is a major national opportunity for all the sector's key stakeholders across research, business and government to come together to and develop frameworks for the future of our biotechnology sector and what it will deliver for Australia's future."

BioForum will be held in Geelong and is an opportunity to showcase the Geelong region which has undergone an economic transition from manufacturing to a knowledge base industry over the past two years with the establishment of a biotech cluster, BioGeelong, in 2005.

Dr Bree Gorman, Cluster Facilitator for BioGeelong said "with major developments in terms of infrastructure and attracting key personnel, Geelong, is set to be a significant player in the Victorian strategy to be listed as one of the top 5 locations for biotech by 2010"

The major players in the BioGeelong network are Deakin University, CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratories, Barwon Health and Chemgenex Pharmaceuticals. These organisations along with support from other members of the BioGeelong network and the Victorian Government will meet with delegates from the biotech industry over two days to discuss shaping the future.

The discussions will focus on key areas and confront issues affecting the Victorian biotech sector and the Australian biotech industry as a whole. The discussions will address regulation and policy development, medical devices and diagnostics, capital raising, AgBiotech and hold plenary sessions focusing on future directions for the industry.

AusBiotech CEO, Dr Anna Lavelle said "BioForum is a significant industry event in Victoria and will be an opportunity for delegates to hear about developments and successes in the sector and have direct input into the future direction planning for the industry"

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