

Media Release



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Industry condemns Parliament over stem cell legislation

Parliament's decision to reject the *Human Reproductive Technology Amendment Bill 2007* will further reduce WA's capacity to attract the investment and personnel required to maintain a viable and competitive science sector in the State.

AusBiotech CEO Dr Anna Lavelle said the decision would severely impact on Western Australia's scientific future.

"We're very disappointed that our world-class local researchers aren't supported with world class regulations," Dr Lavelle said.

"With the help of organisations such as the Lions Eye Institute and the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR) has been building a global reputation for high quality, ground breaking research.

"Unfortunately, when Parliament makes decisions like this, the message received around the world is that WA is no longer a progressive research destination of choice.

"That means investment is diverted to other states and countries and the best and brightest minds are forced to follow the funding."

Dr Lavelle called on both major parties to revisit their respective policies on the issue and go to the next election with a firm commitment to support the bill early in the next Parliament.

** AusBiotech is Australia's biotechnology industry organisation. With more than 3,000 members nationally, the NGO represents the interests of those involved in the fields of environmental, human health, pharmaceutical, industrial and agricultural biotechnology.*