About us

AusBiotech, as Australia’s largest life sciences industry body, is dedicated to fostering a growing, strong and profitable biotechnology and life science industry in Australia through representation, advocacy and delivering services and benefits to its members.

We have been the industry’s member organisation for more than 30 years, working for the success of Australian biotechnology by providing the largest dedicated network in the country and one of the largest in the world. Our substantial contribution to the life sciences ecosystem is testimony to the dedication of its 3,000 members, volunteer committees, its Board and business team.

This strategic plan seeks to build on the firm foundations AusBiotech has built, evolving and adapting alongside industry’s needs to address the predicted opportunities and challenges and to help the industry realise its nationally important economic potential. It has been developed by the Board, following members’ feedback, and is a demonstration of the refreshment and re-alignment of the organisation.

AusBiotech will remain a sustainable and financially-sound organisation, focused on the delivery of members’ and industry’s needs. We continue working towards ensuring the Australian life sciences industry is supported to capitalise on new technologies and growth opportunities.

AusBiotech’s vision

AusBiotech’s vision is to be the leading Australian industry body representing and advocating for organisations doing business in and with the global life sciences economy.

AusBiotech’s mission

AusBiotech’s mission is to foster a growing, strong and profitable biotechnology and life science industry in Australia through representation, advocacy and the provision of services and benefits to its members to help the industry realise its nationally important economic potential.
Our objectives, and how we’ll deliver them

We intend to realise our mission through membership engagement, delivering on members’ expectations, pursuing effective government relationships to represent sectoral views and facilitating sector investment, and using our reputation and positioning to grow the Australian life science industry. The objectives and goals in this strategic plan (build member engagement, champion advocacy, ensure sustainability, focus on growth, and strengthen relevance) have been considered with the industry and our members in mind. However, the complementary work plan – or, how we’ll deliver these objectives – is an evolving body of work. Your feedback is important and can influence the way we deliver these outcomes.

Please talk to any of the AusBiotech directors or team to have your say.

BUILD MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

We will build and foster members’ engagement, providing value and positioning informed by their views and experiences.

By:
1. Increasing opportunities for members to offer their views and case studies, illustrating industry achievements and issues.
2. Keeping our members informed about AusBiotech initiatives, achievements and industry news, recognising and tailoring to the sub-sectors within our membership.
3. Aligning our outcomes: as opportunities arise, symbiotically working across the life sciences community to increase knowledge and skills across the sector.
4. Facilitating international opportunities for investment discussions, collaborations and partnerships, with a focus on the markets important to members, notably the US and growth markets in Asia.

This looks like:
• Continuing the annual Industry Position Survey, accompanied by state-based roundtables.
• Holding an annual CEO policy forum in Canberra that enables exchange of views.
• Undertaking issues-based engagement, identifying and testing key policy priorities underpinning and informing our advocacy work.
• Supporting cross-association industry projects through an array of knowledge and network-based support systems.
• Continuing to deliver information to and share knowledge with members and the wider life science ecosystem through publications, our website, e-bulletins, social media and traditional media.
• Continuing to support state-based committees and their focussed efforts specific to their geographies, including a renewed focus on the opportunities in NSW.
• Fostering industry sector engagement via topic-based groups.
• Further developing our strong relationships with major international industry associations.
• Facilitating a calendar of international events and business missions, thereby maximising opportunities for our members to access investors, clients and business partners. This includes BIO and AusBiotech’s Investment Series.

CHAMPION ADVOCACY
We will champion advocacy and be recognised as a persuasive, credible and collaborative voice of leadership for Australia’s life sciences industry. Working with government and facilitating sector investments, we will ensure industry’s rightful place as a key and growing economic and social driver.

By:
1. Prioritising support for policy and issues of benefit to the industry, through relationships and increased AusBiotech focus.
2. Positioning the industry as a significant and economically-important driver for Australia’s future, ensuring awareness and understanding of its investment and growth potential.
3. Leveraging sector experience to develop industry positions on relevant issues and inform advocacy. Building alliances and partnerships with key stakeholders will align and strengthen our sector positioning.
4. Making strategic and proactive advocacy decisions. We will identify and prioritise these, maximising impact and ability to influence.

This looks like:
• Continued active monitoring of priority issues.
• Following feedback, developing and sharing a process for identifying issues and prioritising actions.
• Hosting issue-based information-sharing and consultation events when the need arises.
• Partnering with and building alignment with other industry bodies/organisations where it makes sense.
• Developing a key policy issues register, with an online policy position paper for each. Members will be kept updated on progress through a quarterly policy update.
• Providing ongoing support for the Investment Series, promoting and leveraging our investment resources.
• Developing a communications campaign showcasing our industry’s significance. Encompassing our current publications, it will also include member case studies and sector data.
• Utilising our comprehensive committee structure to respond to submissions.
• Developing a defined register of experts/advisors from within our membership. Those willing to share their expertise on priority issues, will be recognised on the website as an expert panel.

ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY
We will ensure AusBiotech’s long-term sustainability, maintaining AusBiotech as a sustainable and financially-sound organisation with access to appropriate resources to ensure growth, adaptation and resilience, and always focused on delivery of members’ and industry’s needs.

By:
1. Building on existing, and developing new, income and membership streams, relevant to our mission, including AusEvents™.
2. Matching our structure to our strategy and ensuring the best use of funds to support our goals and aspirations.
3. Committing to meeting the highest levels of integrity, compliance and ethics in line with the expectations of our members, society and governments.
4. Using our strong governance structure to facilitate surety.
5. Focusing on organisational culture, including the role of employees, committees, management and Board, looking for constant improvement.
FOCUS ON GROWTH

We will focus on growth, ensuring the Australian life sciences industry is structurally supported to capitalise on new technologies and growth opportunities. Identifying relevant science and trends, and enabling access to talent, expertise, education and partnerships, will help frame policy thought-leadership and grow the sector.

By:

1. Working with the wider life sciences ecosystem to identify relevant policy, science, and technological trends and their growth potential.
2. Occupying a leadership position, designing and delivering initiatives and collaborations focused on future sector trends.
3. Advocating for removing barriers impeding growth, and identifying the positive levers – advocating for initiatives providing support.
4. Strengthening and growing industry knowledge about capabilities and enablers by providing platforms for learning and networking. Identifying and addressing any gaps.

This looks like:

• Focusing on one/two promising growth areas each year, and developing engagement and value plans for each.
• Business agility: reviewing areas of the membership that are declining or require reduced effort. Following consultation: we’ll determine the next steps.
• Developing a new programme: Bio-Inventors; demonstrating the value of our sector and the people working at the cutting edge of new science. It will showcase how the work of our sector saves and enhances lives, and will promote life sciences investment; it will be run nationally and encourage diversity.
• Conducting a skills and talent audit using collaborative forums across academia and industry, and advocating for filling the identified gaps.
• Continuing to strengthen the industry through regular networking and information events, including national conferences, Women in Life Sciences luncheons and the Big Sisters programme.
• Participating in projects in areas of identified need, including MTPConnect-supported projects addressing investment, mentoring and/or partnership with China.
• Sharing AusBiotech’s future trends analysis, connecting with potential partners and clarifying engagement models within collaborations.
• Leveraging grant and investment opportunities to further future growth initiatives, such as partnering on MTPConnect consortium bids and contributing to advisory boards.
• Considering each prioritised future growth trend, identifying barriers to its advancement and advocating for the what’s missing
• Advocating for increased capital awareness and input to the sector, through expanded existing programmes or new programmes, by identifying and promoting the capital gap.

STRENGTHEN RELEVANCE
We will strengthen our relevance: enhancing our reputation and positioning within the Australian life sciences industry.

By:
1. Knowing our sector better than anyone: developing and maintaining leading industry knowledge and data, to inform AusBiotech’s and the industry’s competitive advantage.
2. Strengthening and maintaining the AusBiotech brand, raising our profile and ensuring all branding is consistent, high-impact and appropriate.
3. Reviewing the changing needs of our sector’s subgroups, and how they work together, and ensuring we can offer each value when delivering advocacy, engagement and events.

This looks like:
• Continuing to produce our bi-annual Life Sciences Snapshot report.
• Developing a set of agreed data parameters. Leveraging existing data and filling the gaps to support our industry.
• Ensuring event quality is top-of-mind through regular and appropriate reviews. Feedback will ensure constant improvement.
• Maintaining quality-control processes for all formal communication.
• Ensuring consistent and thoughtful use of AusBiotech branding, including co-branding.
• Reviewing the topic-based subgroups within our membership, and informing the top five priorities. Each will have an accompanying advisory committee providing priority focus and a feedback mechanism.
• Holding Future Forums at AusBiotech and AusMedtech conferences. Discussing trends, and new technologies and their implications, this two-way engagement will feed into our advocacy, engagement and event work.