NSW KNOWLEDGE STATEMENT — Consultation Draft

NSW values the knowledge, experience, cultural resources and skills of its people and seeks to unlock the value of the State’s intellectual capital - its innovative capacity, its creativity and its economic worth.

NSW is the Clever State building upon the educational and research capacities already in existence to create a knowledge intensive environment which will be the stimulus for a strong economy and a brighter future for the people of NSW.

To prosper NSW must engender an environment which appreciates and rewards knowledge creation and innovation not only for the State, but as a driver and key participant in national and global communities.

To do this we need to:

- ensure that from the earliest age our young people have the skills and knowledge to: support their further learning; develop their creative and critical capacities, and make a positive contribution to society
- build on high standards of literacy and numeracy from the early years onwards so that all young people have the capacity to lead fulfilling lives and make a productive contribution to our social and economic well being
- have a highly educated workforce and community – with high levels of completion of secondary education, including a significant increase in the number of students completing in advanced maths and science, and high rates of participation in tertiary education
- address shortages of workers in vital knowledge-intensive fields - engineers, health professionals, and teachers specialising in maths, science and special needs. This means not only encouraging more students to graduate in these fields but also ensuring work in these areas is valued and supported in the community
- have exceptionally high levels of research and development performed to international standards in NSW. Have vibrant and high-impact research and development institutions operating here – universities, private sector laboratories, cultural research centres and other specialist research institutions such as our medical research institutes, our ARC Centres of Excellence, our Cooperative Research Centres and Commonwealth institutions such as CSIRO, ANSTO and DSTO
- support research excellence, concentration and training especially in areas where we face significant challenges – climate change, ageing, obesity and sustainability in both our urban and rural environments
- have excellent knowledge transfer and support systems between the public and private sectors, and between NSW research and the rest of the world. This includes mechanisms for collocation of public and private sector knowledge activities, the use of shared knowledge infrastructure and the encouragement of multidisciplinary research
- support our IT and research infrastructure through promoting high broadband penetration and the development of specialist research infrastructure to support our main areas of research concentration
- make information as widely, easily and freely accessible as possible. The public sector has a particular role here in providing access to significant information holdings including our cultural and heritage collections
- promote and support technical and structural innovation in the private sector, the public sector and the community. We need to ensure innovative products and services match to demand and reach global markets quickly with appropriate intellectual property protection
- value, measure, report and share our intangible assets, promote our cultures, knowledge and learnings and clearly articulate the value of the State’s most significant resource – its people.

The Government is seeking your views on the Knowledge Statement, specifically its fit with the Clever State objectives and targets and industry needs in shaping our State to 2020.