



NEW ZEALAND – QUEENSLAND BIOTECHNOLOGY COLLABORATION



New Zealand and Queensland welcome the increasing collaborative links that are developing between the two regions, through their Governments, research institutes and private sectors.

Recent meetings and discussions between representatives from Queensland and New Zealand have resulted in a desire to explore potential collaborative opportunities to the mutual benefit of each region.

The Governments of both New Zealand and Queensland recognise that the support of smart technologies is central in the development of a knowledge economy. New Zealand's Innovation Policy and Queensland's Smart State Strategy both work towards nurturing a knowledge economy in each region.

The Governments of New Zealand and Queensland agree to explore the potential for developing a strategic alliance in the biotechnology sector whereby NZ and Queensland biotechnology firms and research institutes are able to secure synergistic benefit and joint commercial advantage from closer collaboration.

Matters to be explored will include:

- Identification and assessment of current and potential areas of mutual comparative advantage
- Examination of the potential for coordinating existing investment activities and programs in biotechnology research, facilities development, commercialisation and promotion.
- Approaches for further strengthening linkages between government, industry and business communities, the academic community, non-government organisations and international organisations in areas of mutual interest
- Identification of regulatory barriers, ethical and other potential impediments to developing the respective relationships, and biotechnology development, and assessing the means of reducing their impact
- Options for enhancing the commercialisation of New Zealand and Queensland biotechnology research through joint or collaborative investment vehicles
- Identification of areas for possible collaboration with the Commonwealth Government and other State Governments in supporting biotechnology areas of mutual comparative advantage

The Department of Innovation and Information Economy in Queensland and the Ministry of Research Science and Technology in New Zealand will be jointly responsible for the completion of this exploratory work.

Pete Hodgson
Minister of Research, Science &
Technology
New Zealand

Peter Beattie
Premier and Minister for Trade
Queensland
Australia