



Liverpool
Innovation
Precinct



FEDERAL PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION
2022-23

AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND TRANS-TASMAN BIOBRIDGE

INVESTMENT: \$280,000 to 2023

BENEFITS: Accelerate medical research to improve community health outcomes, commercialisation of new technologies and the establishment of an Asia Pacific Centre of Medical Technology Excellence

INVESTMENT SUMMARY

The Australian Federal Government invest \$280,000 (2022/23) in support of the Australia New Zealand Trans-Tasman Biobridge, an initiative of Austrade, the Consortium of Medical Device Technologies (NZ) and the Liverpool Innovation Precinct (NSW). The initiative is supported (non-financially) by the Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum.

The Biobridge endeavours to strengthen a two-way flow of capital, knowledge, education and resources between Australia and New Zealand through collaborative medical research, clinical trials and technology commercialisation.

BACKGROUND

The Liverpool Innovation Precinct (LIP) was founded to bring together key thought leaders and institutional decision makers to leverage the excellent location and capability of Liverpool Hospital. The goal is to increase the opportunity for health, education, research and innovation investment around the hospital and greater precinct to create a new, vibrant environment to boost the Liverpool economy and create career opportunities and jobs for the rapidly growing community living in Sydney's South West.

The LIP Steering Committee consists of ten members:

- South Western Sydney Local Health District
- Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research
- University of NSW
- Western Sydney University
- University of Wollongong
- NSW Department of Education
- Sydney Catholic Schools
- TAFE NSW
- South Western Sydney Primary Health Network
- Liverpool City Council



The committee meets monthly and is independently chaired by David Berger, Executive Director of Business Western Sydney. Each of the partners provides a financial contribution towards the work plan for the Liverpool Innovation Precinct. No additional or external funding has been received to date.

Liverpool aspires for its Innovation Precinct to be a 'magnet' for innovators, startup founders, industry and knowledge workers and to grow to become a hub for technology commercialisation, economic activity and a powerful generator of new businesses and jobs.

Entirely self-funded to date, the Liverpool Innovation Precinct has achieved much since its launch in 2017 by the then Greater Sydney Commission Chief Commissioner, Lucy Turnbull AO. Important achievements include:

- Signing of major agreements with multinationals Hitachi Australia, GE Health, Johnson & Johnson, Siemens and Samsung, which have resulted in ground-breaking collaborative projects including telehealth initiatives and provision of tertiary-level care (surgical robotics) services to remote locations;
- Recognised and awarded by the Greater Sydney Commission for thought leadership on health integrated education and research with the K-12 sector;
- Led a Health & Research Trade delegation to New Zealand with major industry and strategic partnership outcomes; and
- Selected by the [Global Institute on Innovation Districts](#) as 1 of only 10 global innovation districts and the only innovation precinct in NSW (only 3 in all of Australia) to partner with on precinct development and research of the economic value of innovation precincts to local and national economies.

AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND TRANS-TASMAN BIOBRIDGE INITIATIVE

In March 2020 the Liverpool Innovation Precinct led a successful Health and Research Trade mission to New Zealand, introducing academics, researchers, startup founders and small business owners to suitable counterparts in New Zealand. The objective was to foster collaborative activities that would accelerate medical research, commercialisation of new technologies and create opportunities for local businesses to grow and expand into the NZ market.

A significant outcome of that mission was the establishment of a 10-year Australia New Zealand (ANZ) [Trans-Tasman Biobridge](#) partnership, connecting 13 university,



hospital, independent and Crown research institutions to advance innovative medical technologies and the economic contribution of the medical technology sector to both countries. This agreement has the (non-financial) support of both Austrade and the [Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum](#).

The signatories to that agreement are:

- South West Sydney Local Health District
- Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research
- South West Sydney Primary Health Network
- University of New South Wales
- Western Sydney University
- University of Wollongong
- Liverpool City Council
- Callaghan Innovation
- Auckland University of Technology
- University of Auckland
- University of Canterbury
- University of Otago
- Victoria University of Wellington

The objectives of the Biobridge include:

- Collaborate on projects of mutual benefit and contribute to improved health outcomes for the Australian and New Zealand communities;
- Facilitate research and support clinical and commercialisation activities;
- Identify and share pathways for financing, access to talent and the development of health-related technologies in ANZ and internationally;
- Contribute to national dialogue on growing the medical technology sector's economic and social impacts; and
- Work to establish an 'Asia Pacific Centre of Medical Technology Excellence' within ANZ.

Current partnerships of the Biobridge:



Despite the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 situation the Biobridge has still been able to progress its activities, conducting virtual workshops and conferences which have resulted in valuable collaborative research projects, one which will advance the diagnosis and treatment of concussion, particularly in children and another in the applications of artificial intelligence (AI) in health. A video of the AI workshop can be viewed here: [Trans-Tasman Biobridge: AI in Health](#)

To date the Liverpool Innovation Precinct has used its own funds to support the Biobridge activities which contrasts against the NZ\$180,000 granted by the NZ Ministry of Business, Innovation and Enterprise (MBIE) and a further NZ\$100,000 for new initiatives in 2023. The new initiatives have been identified to include the support of research and projects that address issues in indigenous health such as Type 2 Diabetes and childhood nutrition.

The Liverpool Innovation Precinct is seeking **\$280,000** for 2022/23 to align with and match the NZ Government contributions towards the advancement of the Trans-Tasman Biobridge objectives.

It is anticipated that the funds matching the NZ Government contribution to the Biobridge will accelerate the progress of medical research projects that improve the health outcomes in the communities of both nations, including their respective indigenous populations, as well as increase the commercialisation of new technologies that creates new businesses, jobs and export opportunities. These outcomes, achieved successfully, will be the basis of the establishment of an 'Asia Pacific Centre of Medical Technology Excellence' located in ANZ.

You can contact Lance Chia, Director, Investment & Innovation at the Liverpool Innovation Precinct to discuss the proposal in greater detail on 0402 763 444 or chial@liverpool.nsw.gov.au

