

## **Griffith University Pre-Budget Submission**

### **Griffith University**

Griffith University is a highly-ranked Australian university with an international outlook, which is deeply connected to the communities that we serve in South East Queensland.

Our research excellence, innovative teaching, and learning practices, along with our strong ties to industry, makes us a leading provider of higher education in the Asia-Pacific.

We also continue the commitment to expanding educational access of our namesake, Sir Samuel Walker Griffith, who was twice the Premier of Queensland, the first Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, and the principal author of the Australian Constitution.

With campuses across South East Queensland educating a broad cross-section of our community, Griffith University is a proven partner of industry and training ground for skilled workers.

More than 80% of the University's students are domestic students. Our international students come from 130 different countries with no single international cohort making up more than 5% of the total student body. Griffith University has been very deliberate in managing both its financial position and exposure to changes in international student markets. While we have been financially challenged by the impact on the international student market, our financial prudence in recent years puts us in a position to co-invest with Government.

Over the last five years, there has been no over-reliance on any single country with the top three countries constituting a small part of our total student body: China 5%, India 2%, a mix of South Korea, USA and Hong Kong (1% each).

Griffith's recent strategy commits us to educate Graduates of the Future who are ready to enter the workplace and to undertake research that is measured by its positive impacts locally, nationally and globally. Our capital plan is focused on delivering those outcomes.

### **Griffith University during COVID**

Griffith University has demonstrated its commitment to its local communities during the recent COVID-19 crisis pivoting towards research in areas such as vaccines and treatments, mental health and domestic violence challenges in lockdown, and economic policy. Students and staff have also used their skills and facilities to produce face shields, sanitisers, affordable ventilators for developing countries, and food and assistance for

students in need. We have done this despite the severe financial challenges in 2020 and beyond.

We recognise the likely changes to international student numbers in coming years will require a strategic response from universities and we will complete our Roadmap to Sustainability program leading to salary and non-salary cost reduction.

Griffith University recognises the significant work undertaken by the Australian Government in limiting the social and economic impacts of the pandemic and helping to make the country's outcomes among the best in the world. Griffith University also notes this work is far from over.

### **Griffith University—The rebuild**

To aid Australia's recovery and regrowth efforts in the short term and establish productive advanced manufacturing focused infrastructure that will contribute for decades to come, **Griffith University is seeking a \$35m investment co-contribution** from the Australian Government for the first project in a \$0.7b multi-campus infrastructure plan.

The Australian Government's investment, alongside a \$35m investment from the University, will be leveraged to unlock \$35m from the Queensland Government towards the shovel-ready Advanced Design and Prototyping Technologies (ADaPT) facility on the Gold Coast. During the 2020 Queensland Election campaign Griffith University welcomed a \$35m election commitment made by then Opposition Leader, Ms Deb Frecklington, towards the project.

In effect, a one-dollar investment from the Federal Government will help deliver a total of three-dollars of value for the South East region of Queensland.

The proposed partnership is expected to:

- Facilitate 315 jobs on the Gold Coast during the four-year construction.
- Grow Griffith University's \$2.1b total economic contributions through research commercialisation, co-location of industry partners and start-ups, and the development of new industries.

Additionally, through a combination of co-location and other investment opportunities, ADaPT will further deepen the University's strong connection to, and collaboration with, a range of critical industries nationwide, providing long-term economic and social benefits, engagement, and impact.

The University is also working with the Queensland Government to secure a further \$80m plus a land package for other social and economic recovery supporting infrastructure across the region, as part of our multi-campus infrastructure plan.

## **Advanced Design and Prototyping Technologies (ADaPT)** \$100 million

Located within the Gold Coast's Health and Knowledge Precinct, ADaPT is envisaged as a 'one-stop-shop' for advanced design, prototyping and manufacturing. To the best of our knowledge, it is unique in Australia in providing end-to-end services to industry from design through to advanced 3D printed prototypes.

With advanced design and collaboration at its core, ADaPT combines leading-edge expertise in micro and nanoscience, complex imaging, 3D digital scanning, 3D functional modelling, bioengineering, industrial design, big data analytics, artificial intelligence, and specialist expertise in designing advanced manufacturing processes. ADaPT is equipped with extensive advanced 3D printing technologies, including multiple metals, polymer, and bioprinting capabilities.

ADaPT will lead pioneering work into areas including spinal cord injury and rehabilitation, digital twinning, virtual surgery and functional nano-materials. A strong relationship with the adjunct Gold Coast University Hospital, as well as other industry partners currently exists.

It is noteworthy the impact of COVID-19 has been particularly stark for the Gold Coast community, which is likely to suffer continuing economic hardship from the loss of international tourism dollars. Not only would the ADaPT project provide short-term construction work and jobs, but it would help build a more economically diversified future making the region more resilient to such shocks in the future.

The \$100m shovel-ready project will also:

- place the region and Griffith University at the forefront of new approaches to advanced manufacturing in Australia—advances central to the nation's rejuvenation in the post-COVID-19 environment
- allow the industry to prototype and scale manufacturable and marketable products for commercialisation, helping to spur technological and economic growth nationally,
- enable the sharing of knowledge, technology, specialist equipment, services and infrastructure with industry
- provide opportunities for start-up collaboration spaces
- assist in attracting companies to the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge precinct
- deliver research excellence in areas critical to the country's short- and long-term financial health.

Griffith has piloted a smaller version of ADaPT on its current campus. Interest by industry has been considerable.

Industry partners have already expressed interest in utilising the new building space from sectors as diverse as health (Saluda Medical; Fourier Intelligence) to aviation (Ryan Aerospace) and others who will use services provided by ADaPT in areas such as additive and advanced manufacturing (Geofabrics; Laserdyne; magniX; Magnetica; Riviera) and tooling and process development support (Camtech Engineering; Cochlear).

### **Alignment with Australian Government policies**

Finally, ADaPT is inextricably aligned with the Australian Government's expressed policies for 2020–2030 across a range of important portfolios, including the:

1. Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Australia 2030: Prosperity through Innovation)
2. Department of Education, Skills and Employment (National Strategy for International Education 2025)
3. Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (Smart Cities Plan)
4. Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Australian International Education, 2025).

As part of its broader strategic plan for 2020–2025, Griffith believes the ADaPT development on the Gold Coast is essential to Australia's future ability to anticipate and respond actively to the challenges that await our national community as the mid-21st century approaches.

### **Conclusion**

This shovel-ready project is the first part of Griffith's multi-campus infrastructure plan which spans across three South East Queensland cities; Brisbane, the Gold Coast and Logan. This includes a new \$280m Brisbane City campus in Roma Street and a \$200m Professional Education Building on our Nathan campus, on Brisbane's southside.

Griffith can invest more than \$0.5b in capital projects from 2020–2027 to support Australia's social and economic recovery, with the potential to create in excess of 2000 jobs across South East Queensland during the six years of construction.

This Australian Government investment of \$35m, alongside a \$35m investment from the University, will be leveraged to unlock a \$35m contribution from the Queensland Government. In effect, a one-dollar investment from the Federal Government will help unlock a total of three-dollars of value for South East Queensland and initiate the major multi-campus infrastructure plan series of projects.

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## Advanced Design and Prototyping Technologies — Gold Coast

