



A message from the Chair



Welcome to the first bulletin of the Food Industry Innovation Precinct that I hope will be formally called Food Innovation Australia (FIA).

So far our work in developing the Food Precinct continues to generate interest and gather pace. In recent weeks I've visited both South Australia and Queensland, and will be in Victoria this week, to meet with senior industry and government representatives. All have expressed a strong interest in being involved with and supporting the Food Precinct and its national network.

Interviews for the Managing Director position are taking place now. This will be followed by shortlisting and interviewing for the two Director roles.

Opportunities to become core precinct partners will also re-open once we've established the precinct as a company and completed the precinct's business plan, strategic plan and budget. We'll continue to keep you informed of developments via this regular precinct bulletin plus place any updates on the Food Precinct's GovDex site.

Please send your specific questions or comments to FoodPrecinct@innovation.gov.au.

I look forward to the national Food Precinct network taking shape so that significant industry-led initiatives will make the food sector more attractive to investment.

Thank you for your continued support of the Food Precinct.

First meeting of the board

The first meeting of the Food Precinct Board was held on 29 May 2013. It delivered outcomes to progress the food processing industry's capacity and capability for the future, including value adding across the food supply chain.

- The offer from La Trobe University has been accepted to [host the initial Food Precinct](#) for a period of 12 months. However, a more permanent solution will be investigated.
- The Board has formed task-specific committees and are developing their Terms of Reference to ensure appropriate governance:
 - Governance Committee
 - Risk and Audit Committee
 - Nominations and Remuneration Committee
 - Communications Committee
 - Market Development Advisory Committee
 - Innovation, Capability and Skills Advisory Committee.
- A list of potential Industry Collaboration Fund (ICF) projects is being compiled for the Board's consideration. The Board plans to provide an early glimpse of potential ICF projects to core precinct partners (i.e. Foundation Members and Government Members).
- A consultant has been engaged and will soon begin working closely with the Board to develop the Precinct's Business Plan, Strategic Plan and budget.



Where to from here?

The Board will now progress the key outcomes and meets again on 13 June 2013. Establishing the foundations required for administration of the precinct and the ICF are the priorities of the Board.

- Our Chair, Peter Schutz, is progressing the trademark registration of the Food Precinct Company.
- Before the template constitution can be created, a terms sheet for the key elements of the Company Constitution will soon be reviewed by the board.
- The board will be providing feedback on a draft Commonwealth Funding Agreement.

Express your interest in developing Innovation Collaboration Fund (ICF) projects

The ICF will support collaborative projects that will significantly enhance productivity, growth and international competitiveness in the food processing sector. Ideally projects would include a skilling or training element. Together businesses, universities and/or researchers will work jointly with the Food Industry Innovation Precincts to socialise and progress their proposals.

Information is available govdex to assist your expression of interest (EOI), including versions of the following:

- EOI template (draft version)

Please send the completed template to: FoodPrecinct@innovation.gov.au, which will enable the Board to review. Proposals should consider the program objectives and policy outcomes from the [program guidelines](#).

The Board – who are we?

We'd like to introduce you to the members of the [Food Precinct Board](#). Together, they represent a solid and broad spectrum of our food sector. Each member is well-placed to fulfill the Food Precincts' goal of supporting growth in Australia's market share into existing and new markets.

Peter Schutz – Chair

Dr Geoffrey Annison – Australian Food Grocery Council

Dave Ashcroft – Petuna Aquaculture

Catherine Barnett – Food South Australia

Associate Professor Kim Bryceson – University of Queensland

Charlie Donnelly – National Union of Workers

Margaret Haseltine – Agri-Food Skills Australia

Dr Hermione Parsons – Victoria University

Dr Christine Pitt – Meat and Livestock Australia

Prof Alastair Robertson – CSIRO

Simon Talbot – Kraft Foods Australia