Dear CANDIDATE,

I am writing to you as a member of the ELECTORATE NAME electorate, to draw your attention to the ‘Solve it with Science’ campaign.

Many of the issues we face as a community and as a nation can be solved with science. Challenges such as those in health and medicine, education, agricultural production, defence, resources and energy, cybersecurity, tourism, trade and the environment. Advancements in science and technology increase our understanding of these challenges and provide powerful solutions to address them.

Investing in building and applying knowledge requires vision, courage, and an appreciation of the big-picture. I am writing to ask you to consider how you will contribute to building a future for Australia that invests in, supports and celebrates these important pathways to enhancing our health, wellbeing, environment, and quality of life.

This Federal Election, we in the STEM sector are calling on all parties to demonstrate a commitment to investing in science and technology to ensure Australia’s future health, wealth, wellbeing and environmental security.

In order to remain globally competitive, Australia must achieve:

* A whole-of-government plan for science and technology
* A strategy to equip the future Australian workforce with STEM skills
* Strong, balanced investment in both the pursuit of knowledge and its application

I am writing to ask how the PARTY NAME plans to support Australian science and technology. More than 70 organisations in STEM across Australia are also encouraging voters to assess your party’s commitment to science and technology for a bright future when they go to the ballot box on DATE OF ELECTION.

Our sector is responsible for [26% of Australian economic activity, or around $330 billion per year](https://www.science.org.au/support/analysis/reports/physical-mathematical-biological-importance-economy), and in Australia, direct investment in science, through the National Health and Medical Research Council, returns [$3.20 for every $1](https://www2.deloitte.com/au/en/pages/economics/articles/australias-health-and-medical-research-workforce.html) we put in.

This is replicated worldwide: European science provides a [250% return on investment](https://www.nature.com/news/2010/100609/full/465682a.html); the USA [receives returns of $2.21 on average](https://www.elsevier.com/connect/the-impact-of-science-how-research-can-be-measured-and-spending-maximized) for every dollar spent on science and technology; and for every pound spent on science and innovation the UK receives [20-50 pence in return every year, in perpetuity](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/science-and-innovation-rates-of-return-to-investment).

With a strong national strategy for the STEM sector, underpinned by bold public investment and a voice for science at the cabinet table, Australia’s future will be set on the path to great health, possibility, and prosperity. Science & Technology Australia, alongside the broader STEM sector it represents, looks forward to working with the 46th Australian Parliament towards a strategically positioned, robust and thriving research and innovation sector.

We hope to work with you to ensure Australian science and technology inform our nation’s future social, cultural and environmental prosperity, with beter health, wealth and wellbeing for all Australians.

If you would like to discuss these issues further, I would welcome the chance to speak. Please reach out via CONTACT DETAILS.

Kind regards,

Etc.