



Professor Sharath Sriram
Mr Ryan Winn
Science and Technology Australia
Via email only: ceo@sta.org.au

Dear Professor Sharath and Mr Winn,

Thank you for sending through your 2025 election priorities. I would be happy to put my name to the pledge you have drafted and commit my support for continuing the Strategic Examination of R&D.

Throughout my first term as an Independent Senator from the ACT, I have been critical of the declining investment in R&D and a vocal supporter of increasing Australian R&D spend to a competitive level globally.

I have also called for investment to diversify Australia's industrial base and deepen economic complexity through building sovereign capability. This includes securing a \$10 million investment in gene drive technology in order to combat invasive species in Australia.

If re-elected, I will continue to push the next government to establish a new climate research and services agency. I will advocate for the funding required to allow Australian research institutions to develop our research institutions as an engine room of breakthrough research.

Australia must work to take advantage (and avoid risks posed by) data-driven world by shoring up high-performance computing (HPC) and AI sovereign capabilities.

STEM has a critical role in building the industries for Australia's economic prosperity and wellbeing. I will be working hard to make sure it receives the support required for all of us to benefit.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'D Pocock'.

Senator David Pocock

David Pocock
Independent Senator for the ACT

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