

**More information**

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## Year 10 Busselton Students Compete for Beijing Bound

On Monday 9 September, two Year 10 students from Busselton Senior High School and four from St. Mary MacKillop College will present a science research project they have completed as part of the Scitech and Rio Tinto partnership program, Beijing Bound.

A judging panel, consisting of a local science professional, and Scitech and Rio Tinto employees, will select one student to travel to the annual Beijing Youth Science Creation Competition to present their project to over 5,000 students and scientists in March 2020.

Student projects in this year's program investigate a broad range of topics, including renewable energy, the impact of introduced plant species on river health, and methods to reduce ocean plastic pollution.

Kalien Selby, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Scitech said, "Beijing Bound is a West Australian program that takes local ideas, research and capabilities and puts them on an international stage. It creates a bridge between education and industry to give students a realistic understanding of what a STEM career can involve."

"The Program takes an innovative approach to traditional education that inspires and informs with very positive results. We are extremely proud to partner with Rio Tinto to deliver Beijing Bound and the opportunities for secondary school students that come with it."

Brendon Brodie-Hall, Rio Tinto General Manager, Dampier Salt, said "There has been some exceptional research projects delivered by students through the Beijing Bound program in recent years. The ability to solve complex problems through smart use of technology is at the heart of what we need in a mining workforce of the future. At Rio Tinto we know that we need to inspire more students into STEM-related pathways, which is why we are proud supporters of the Beijing Bound program."

Since 2018 in Busselton and 2006 in the Pilbara, this initiative pairs selected secondary students with Rio Tinto mentors, to undertake a research project in their local area. Over five months, students develop and carry out a scientific research plan, write a literature review, submit a final research report, and deliver a scientific presentation for their peers, families and community guests.

In March 2019, both students selected to compete in Beijing won Gold in their category of Environmental Science and Engineering. Violette Otto from Karratha Senior High School and Shona Kiely from St. Mary MacKillop College were among 196 projects selected to compete from over 1000 submissions.

157 projects were from Beijing, and 39 were from international delegations, including the Czech Republic, Denmark, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Korea, Russia, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine, USA and Australia.