

'New Scitech:' A Bold New Strategy to Create A Positive STEM-Enabled Future for All Western Australians

As a society, we are at a time of critical change and evolution. The future of work is changing, and a new workforce is taking shape. Research shows that 75% of the fastest growing occupations now require STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) skills and knowledge. Scitech has responded to these significant imperatives by developing a bold new strategy, 'New Scitech', which will empower and equip all Western Australians with the 21st century skillset needed for an exciting STEM-enabled future.

Ms Deb Hancock, Chief Executive Officer, Scitech said, "Scitech directly engages over 500,000 Western Australians in STEM every year, plus many more online and around the world. We are trusted to deliver stimulating and inspiring STEM experiences. However, we can't continue to rest on our past achievements and expect to stay relevant."

"'New Scitech' is a plan for transformation, which will see Scitech transition to cater for all ages, from toddlers beginning their learning journey, to school students who may become our future doctors or astronauts, to adults, parents, teachers, STEM professionals and even those seeking new STEM enabled careers."

"The intention is to enable more Western Australians to be able to fulfil future STEM-enabled workforce pipeline requirements – i.e.: be equipped for the jobs of the future. 'New Scitech' will boost STEM skills and knowledge in Western Australia to support a diverse, robust and sustainable future workforce and economy," said Ms Hancock.

Defined by four areas of strategic focus and supported by an underlying enabling strategy of business growth and sustainability, 'New Scitech' aligns with the State Government's commitment to a STEM Skills Strategy and supports shared priorities across industry and education.

The 'Scitech 2018 to 2021 Business Plan' highlights how the new strategy will enable a brighter STEM-enabled future for all Western Australians, and will involve the following:

- Deeper STEM engagement and reach through increased digital delivery of STEM education and awareness – especially for our target audiences, including low socio-economic people, youth (teenagers) females, Aboriginal people, and regional Western Australians.
- Showcasing of contemporary STEM technologies and advances from around the globe.
- Creation of an opportunity mindset and positive momentum for STEM dialogue.
- Active facilitation of a highly integrated STEM community through collaboration and partnership.
- Inspiration of all Western Australians to engage in STEM opportunities through a new state of the art science centre.

Scitech's mission remains as relevant and important today as it did 30 years ago and 'New Scitech' will continue this work: To increase awareness, interest, capability, and participation by all Western Australians in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).