

Event: Innovation Precinct launch

Date: Wednesday 18 April 2018

Arrival time: 11.30am

Speaking time: 12.35

Location: Level 4 Swinburne Innovation Hub



Speech notes

Vice-Chancellor Professor Linda Kristjanson

[Introduced by Dr John Morrison]

Thank you John

Acknowledgements

- Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy, the Honourable Philip Dalidakis
- Victoria's Lead Scientist, Dr Amanda Caples
- Australian Industry Group CEO Innes Willox
- Mayor of the City of Boroondara, Councillor Jim Parkes

Thank you all for attending the launch of our newest Swinburne facility.

Our new Innovation Precinct is headquartered in the former Williams Street Fire Station.

The original building is Heritage listed and dates from 1910, just two years after Swinburne was first established as a technical institute.

As you have already heard, the refurbished and extended building will provide purpose-built spaces for teaching, innovation activities and events.

Most importantly it will encourage collaboration with and among the Design Factory Melbourne, our Incubator program, Entrepreneurs-in-Residence and industry partners.

At Swinburne, our culture is characterised by an entrepreneurial spirit and innovative thinking.

We know that our world-ranked research programs position us to tackle complex challenges and advance frontiers of knowledge.

Innovation is at the heart of our 2025 strategy. This strategy will come to life through projects delivering on three key result areas:

- Future ready learners
- Research with Impact
- Innovative Enterprise.

Swinburne has made a significant investment in infrastructure to support this strategy

- in buildings such as
 - The Advanced Manufacturing and Design Centre
 - The Factory of the Future
 - The Innovation Hub
- in new technology infrastructure such as our new supercomputer OzSTAR; and

- in other efforts to support the rollout of our digitalisation and Industry 4.0 strategy by developing the first Industry 4.0 Testlab

Through this investment, our students and researchers will be equipped with the required advanced capabilities and tools to help transform Australian industry and access global value chains.

The centrepiece of our new Industry 4.0 Testlab will be the first industrial scale 3D printing approach to carbon fibre composite manufacture.

This technology will be able to produce commercial parts out of carbon fibre at a cheaper cost, with minimal waste and improved production capability.

Our success in innovation and commercialisation in graphene technology is part of our overall frontier materials and future manufacturing strategy.

As part of our research into graphene and digital manufacturing processes, we are creating the world's first graphene certification centre.

We will continue to build long-lasting relationships with key organisations to develop programs and activities that focus on research translation and commercialisation.

Just last month we became the first Australian university to launch a joint research centre in Weihai, Shandong, connecting Swinburne with industry in China and South Korea.

This centre will develop advanced manufacturing technologies, including:

- 3D printing
- Industrial automation and robotics
- Advanced materials processing for carbon fibre composites
- Digitalisation across the value chain from design to business supply chain innovation.

In the first five years, the centre will house 100 PhD research students working on high impact projects supported by industry from Australia, the United States and South Korea.

We aim to lead as an innovative and globally capable enterprise that is known for its agility and responsiveness and is equipped to deliver excellence.

By integrating our efforts we are rethinking how we work together.

Our Centre for the New Workforce – to be launched later this year – is a research-led initiative of the Pathways and Vocational Education portfolio, with ties to research and education strategies across the university.

The centre will collaborate closely with industry, inform policy and create impact through its leadership role in developing a digitally-capable workforce in Australia and internationally.

Its purpose is to create new knowledge on how the digital revolution is transforming work, workers and the workplace, with a focus on how we can be best equipped for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Our focus on deep partnerships with organisations such as Siemens, the CSIRO, Shandong University and the Hong Kong Productivity Council demonstrate that innovation and collaboration are at the heart of our business.

We look forward to further opportunities for collaboration in this exciting new facility.

Thank you.