



## A message from the Chair



Welcome to the second bulletin of the Food Industry Innovation Precinct. I am pleased to announce that the company has been registered, and will be formally called, Food Innovation Australia Ltd (FIAL).

As you may have noticed, there has been a delay in the announcement of FIAL's two advisory committees while Terms of Reference (ToRs) were being developed. The Board is now considering those ToRs and will be making a decision shortly on the composition of those two committees.

As noted in the last bulletin, La Trobe University, as part of a joint LaTrobe/RMIT bid, will provide an administrative base the Food Precinct for an initial 12 month period. More information on the interim arrangements for the Precinct is available on page 2 of this bulletin. Bidding to host the headquarters on an ongoing basis will re-open after 12 months, and I anticipate that this will again attract strong interest.

As FIAL continues to take shape, I would encourage everyone to maximize their involvement in the Precinct, to ensure that the industry-led initiatives produce the best outcomes possible.

Please send your specific questions or comments to [FoodPrecinct@innovation.gov.au](mailto:FoodPrecinct@innovation.gov.au) and thank you for your continued support of the Food Precinct.

## Second meeting of the board

The second meeting of the Food Precinct Board was held on 13 June 2013. The meeting progressed outcomes from the first board meeting, and discussed the next steps to progress FIAL.

Key points from the meeting include:

- The Board is currently considering the company constitution, and working on establishing Terms of Reference for the task-specific committees outlined in the first bulletin.
- The interim secretariat is continuing departmental discussions with state governments, and increased engagement of state ministers is a priority for FIAL.
- A consultancy has commenced work with the board to develop the Precinct's Business Plan, Strategic Plan and budget for the first 12 months of operation.

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## Where to from here?

The Board next meets on 10 July 2013 in Sydney. Establishing the foundations required for administration of the precinct and the Industry Collaboration Fund (ICF) remain priorities of the Board.

- Our Chair, Peter Schutz, has registered the domain name for FIAL and is working to register FIAL's trade mark.
  - The interim secretariat is finessing FIAL's Constitution, to ensure that it is consistent with the Commonwealth Funding Agreement.
  - The board will be providing feedback on the draft terms of reference for the task-specific committees.
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## Express your interest in developing **Innovation Collaboration Fund (ICF)** projects

Further to the information provided in the first bulletin, the ICF will support collaborative projects that will significantly enhance productivity, growth and international competitiveness in the food processing sector.

Round 1 of the Industry Collaboration Fund Program opened for applications on 1 July 2013. Applications will close on 12 July 2013.

If you are interested in applying for the first round, we encourage you to submit completed applications forms to [FoodPrecinct@innovation.gov.au](mailto:FoodPrecinct@innovation.gov.au) by COB 5 July for the Board to consider when it meets on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

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## National Food Plan Released

On May 25 2013, former Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Joe Ludwig announced the National Food Plan at Rocklea Markets, Brisbane.

The [National Food Plan](#), a roadmap for the future of Australia's food industry; sets out a framework that will guide industry, community and governments to take advantage of existing and emerging opportunities.

FIA will support the National Food Plan by:

- Strengthening business to business link.
- Helping Australian businesses to efficiently export to Asia by developing Asian consumer insights capability.
- Accelerating and enhancing the development capability of food businesses through training, improved networking and collaboration.
- Improving connections with regional Australia.

## Interim Administrative Base for the Food Precinct

La Trobe University's Bundoora Research and Development Park is located approximately 12 kilometres from Melbourne CBD.



The park is within close proximity to North Melbourne's Food Manufacturing Hub and is co-located with AgriBio, a multi-million dollar joint venture between La Trobe University and the Victorian Government for agricultural biosciences R&D.