

RESOLVED:

Innovation will be the single most important factor determining both Australia and America’s success in the 21st century.

America and Australia’s Roles:

The legacy America and Australia bequeath to their children will depend on the creativity and commitment of their nations to lead a new era of prosperity — at home and abroad.

America and Australia’s Challenges:

The main challenge for both nations is to unleash their nascent innovation capacity to drive economic and productivity growth, living standards, leadership in global markets, and security. At a time when macroeconomic forces and financial constraints make innovation-driven growth an urgent imperative, U.S. and Australian businesses, governments, universities, and research institutions face a range of mega trends that will shape their future:

- Emergent and convergent technology revolutions take center stage in national security, geopolitics, society, and the economy.
- The transition to a cleaner energy and a low-carbon economy faces hurdles and new hope in energy abundance.
- China spreads its wings as the most strategic competitor — but competition is fierce among many nations that seek an innovation-driven future.
- National innovation ecosystems need to expand in terms of geography and demography — more people and more places need to be involved in the innovation economy.

America and Australia’s Task:

For the past half century, our nations have optimized their organizations for efficiency and quality. Over the next half century, we must optimize our entire societies for innovation – the intersection of invention and insight, leading to the creation of social and economic value.

CALL TO ACTION:

Innovation has always been at the essence of America and Australia. From the nations' births, we have most fundamentally been about exploration, opportunity, discovery, and new beginnings.

This focus on the horizon reflects our collective faith in a better future. These are qualities that have made our countries beacons to people around the world.

Today, the United States and Australia find themselves at a unique and delicate historical juncture, shaped by two shifts — one in the nature of global competition, the other in the nature of innovation itself. First, the world is becoming dramatically more interconnected and yet, also, competitive and in some ways fraying. There is tension. We need to recognize this novel situation and what opportunities and dangers it holds — and how we choose to handle this geopolitical reality. Second, how and why innovation occurs is in tremendous flux — across geography and industries, in speed and scope of impact, and even in terms of who is innovating.

Together, these large shifts suggest we stand at an inflection point in history. Whether one looks at demographics, science, culture, technology, geopolitics, economics, or the biological state of the planet, major changes are underway that will continue to shape human society. The immediate actions taken by enterprises, governments, educational institutions, communities, and regions in our two nations will determine the future.

What will America and Australia do? Will we plan and invest for the long term, rather than just the next quarter century, putting in place the talent pool, innovation, capital, and infrastructure necessary for continuing success throughout the 21st century? Will we come together across all sectors – indeed across our two nations – to form a new social and economic impact? **We must act.**

Our Call to Action: we stand for a new, strategic innovation alliance between the United States and Australia – that spans private and public sectors – to find a way forward together; to become more open to one another, sharing in economic success and security; to become more experimental, and to embrace the unknown as strategic allies.

To achieve this, we call on our nations to work together to:

- 1. Call for a new, exclusive, bilateral free trade agreement between Australia and the United States for the trade of: uranium, precious earth metals, leased use of land (in return for increased U.S. military support for Australia).**
- 2. Renew our strategic vision for an age of technological revolution and geo-strategic challenge.**

- 3. Unleash the most competitive business climates for innovation.**
- 4. Assert U.S. and Australian global leadership.**
- 5. Expand the transition to energy abundance, security, and sustainability.**
- 6. Accelerate technology development and deployment at speed and scale — finding ways to partner to solve global grand challenges and opportunities.**
- 7. Empower skilled workforces.**
- 8. Expand place-making innovation and collaborative innovation networks.**

Signed on this day, July 24, 2025, by:

The Hon. Deborah L. Wince-Smith
President and CEO
Council on Competitiveness

Mr. Charles Kiefel AM
Chairman
Australian Advisory Board on Competitiveness