



## Submissions for the *Australia 2020* Summit

The Rudd Government will convene an *Australia 2020* Summit at Parliament House on 19-20 April 2008 to help shape a long term strategy for the nation's future.

The Summit will bring together some of the best and brightest brains from across the country to tackle the long term challenges confronting Australia's future.

Every Australian has the opportunity to make a submission to the Summit in one of the ten critical areas of discussion:

1. Future directions for the Australian economy – including education, skills, training, science and innovation as part of the nation's productivity agenda
2. Economic infrastructure, the digital economy and the future of our cities
3. Population, sustainability, climate change, and water
4. Future directions for rural industries and rural communities
5. A long-term national health strategy – including the challenges of preventative health, workforce planning and the ageing population
6. Strengthening communities, supporting families and social inclusion
7. Options for the future of indigenous Australia
8. Towards a creative Australia: the future of the arts, film and design
9. The future of Australian governance: renewed democracy, a more open government (including the role of the media), the structure of the Federation and the rights and responsibilities of citizens
10. Australia's future security and prosperity in a rapidly changing region and world.

### **Submissions**

Contributing a submission to the *Australia 2020* Summit is a way for all Australians to be involved in bringing the best ideas forward to address Australia's long term challenges.

All submissions will be made publicly available on this website and will be presented to the *Australia 2020* Summit participants to stimulate discussion and ideas about addressing our future challenges.

Individuals, schools, groups, and organisations are invited to make submissions.

Written submissions are limited to 500 words per topic and should focus on one of the ten identified areas. You may contribute a submission in one or more policy areas.

Submissions will be collected by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, which is acting as a secretariat for the *Australia 2020* Summit.

All submissions require a 'name for publication'. This can be an individual, group or organisation. In addition to this, each submission is required to include a contact person, their name and details. These contact details will not be published.

Your submission can play an important role in our national discussion about our future and facing Australia's long term future challenges.

### ***What do I have to do to contribute a submission?***

If you would like to contribute a submission to the *Australia 2020* Summit in Canberra on 19-20 April 2008, complete this form and return it to the address below no later than **5.00pm Wednesday 9 April 2008**.

Submissions can also be completed online through the *Australia 2020* website at [www.australia2020.gov.au](http://www.australia2020.gov.au).

Before completing the form please read all the information provided on this page to assist in completing your submission.

All submissions require a 'name for publication'. This can be an individual, group or organisation. Your name will appear with your submission when they are published online.

You will also be required to include contact details – your name, address, email address and a contact phone number. These details are collected in case we need to contact you in the lead up to or after the summit to discuss your ideas further. Your details will only be used for this purpose and will not be published.

If you are making a submission as a group, please include the details of a contact person for your group.

### ***Completing the form***

The form requires you to complete your personal details and a 'name for publication'. This may be your name or your group's name.

You will then be able to complete a submission for one or more of the topic areas.

Each submission may be up to 500 words per topic to ensure that delegates are able to consider each of the submissions. If just one in every 1000 Australians comments on just one of the ten topic areas, each delegate may have to read more than one million words in the lead up to the Summit. Keeping your contribution concise will ensure that all submissions receive the attention and consideration they deserve.

For this reason attachments, publications, photos and images may not be included in your submission, though you may make reference to any of these you consider useful, including by providing references to further material.

### ***Editorial guidelines***

Submissions will be published subject to editorial control that restricts any offensive material or material inappropriate for publication being made public.



## AUSTRALIAN 2020 SUMMIT SUBMISSION FORM

Nominations must be received **by 5.00pm Wednesday 9 April 2008** to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet at:

*Australia 2020* Summit Secretariat  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
1 National Circuit  
BARTON ACT 2600

Please Note: fields marked with an asterisk (\*) are mandatory

# denotes information that will be made publicly available

PUBLICATION DETAILS #			
So that your submission can be published on the <a href="http://www.australia2020.gov.au">www.australia2020.gov.au</a> website before the Summit, we need you to provide a 'Name for Publication' that you are happy to have appear with your submission. If you are submitting on behalf of a group, this may be your group's name.			
<b>Individual Name/Group Name for Publication on the website*</b>	Foundation for Rabbit Free Australia (RFA)		
CONTACT DETAILS			
We need to collect some personal details from you in case we need to contact you in the lead-up to or after the summit to discuss your ideas further. These details will only be used for this purpose. If you are making a group submission, please provide these details for one member of your group.			
INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP CONTACT			
<b>Title*</b>	Ms		
<b>First Name*</b>	Keryn		
<b>Surname/Family Name*</b>	Lapidge		
<b>Age Groups*</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> 25-30 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 31-40 <input type="checkbox"/> 41-50 <input type="checkbox"/> 51-60 <input type="checkbox"/> Over 61		
CONTACT DETAILS			
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<b>Country*</b>	Australia		

**SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #**

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

***Future Directions for the Australian Economy - Education, skills, training, innovation and productivity***

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. After a long period of sustained economic growth and with the added benefits of the global mining boom, how do we best invest the proceeds of this prosperity to lay the foundations for future economic growth
- b. How we best prepare for a global economy that will increasingly be based upon advanced skills, advanced technology, low carbon energy sources and integration with global supply chains
- c. How we take advantage of Australia's proximity to the fast growing economies in the world
- d. How Australia attracts and retains the most talented, creative and highly skilled people, including researchers and scientists, entrepreneurs, and professional and skilled workers
- e. How we ensure that our children have the highest quality teachers, whether in early childhood, school, TAFE or university, including dealing with the crisis in maths and science related disciplines across the education system
- f. How we foster innovation in the workplace; encouraging the transfer of ideas across businesses and economies.

*How can Australia attract and retain the most talented, creative and highly skilled people, including researchers and scientists, entrepreneurs, and professional and skilled workers?*

The Foundation for a Rabbit Free Australia is concerned that, far from being the "Clever Country", Australia is allowing a once-strong community of research scientists to decline. Numbers have been reduced and the average age of scientists has increased. In our particular area of interest, ecology and practical control of pest animals, too few scientists are employed to conduct necessary research or to provide a critical mass to keep organisations viable.

Many young scientists are not moving into the life sciences because they do not perceive them as dynamic and growing disciplines. We need a commitment by government and the whole community to encourage basic and applied research into the biology and ecology of Australia.

RFA is promoting the movement of young people into rabbit research and related disciplines by funding an annual research grant to assist honours students, and a further annual grant for postgraduate studies. We also promote rabbit research at the policy level whenever possible, and provide seed funds and support for major rabbit research projects.

*After a long period of sustained economic growth and with the added benefits of the global mining boom, how do we best invest the proceeds of this prosperity to lay the foundations for future economic growth?*

At the Olympic Dam mine site in northern South Australia, the Arid Recovery project established a 60 km<sup>2</sup> fenced reserve and removed stock and vertebrate pests. Much useful research on arid zone ecology, including vertebrate pest control, has come from the Arid Recovery research group, and they have released several endangered species such as the bilby, the burrowing bettong and more recently the numbat. This is an excellent example of how the resources boom could benefit the wider community.

References: [www.rabbitfreeaustralia.org.au](http://www.rabbitfreeaustralia.org.au)

**SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #**

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

***Population, sustainability, climate change and water***

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How Australia develops a long term plan to adapt to the growing impacts of climate change on our environment
- b. How does Australia best plan for its long-term water and energy needs
- c. How we position Australia to become a global leader within the next decade in the new low carbon technologies and industries
- d. How do we plan future population growth at a national and regional level, given the constraints of water shortages and sustainability.

*How can Australia develop a long term plan to adapt to the growing impacts of climate change on our environment?*

Australia's natural environment has declined since European settlement. One of the causes is introduced animals and plants. Rabbits in particular compete with native animals, damage native vegetation and cause other problems such as soil erosion. Rabbits are a problem in most of south-eastern Australia, and adequate rabbit control is an essential prerequisite to any attempts to re-vegetate or to re-introduce native.

Rabbit populations were greatly reduced in 1997 by the introduction of rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus (RHDV) but rabbits are now developing resistance to the virus. Applied rabbit control methods, such as warren destruction, are effective and economic in high rainfall areas, but are rendered more effective, cheaper and longer lasting in the presence of effective biological control agents. In the dry centre of Australia, biological control is essential.

Australia needs efficient rabbit control. This means that enough resources must be available to properly support existing control methods, and to research new biological control agents to take over from RHD when rabbit resistance to the virus becomes widespread.

References: [www.rabbitfreeaustralia.org.au](http://www.rabbitfreeaustralia.org.au)

**SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #**

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

***Future directions for rural industries and rural communities***

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. What rural industries are best positioned to take advantage of the global consumer markets of the 21st century
- b. What options are possible for effective structural adjustment for rural industries and communities suffering the long term impact of climate change
- c. What is the most intelligent form of support the Government can provide to ensure the long term sustainability of rural and regional communities, including the fostering of the next generation of Australian farmers.

*What options are possible for effective structural adjustment for rural industries and communities suffering the long term impact of climate change?*

Rabbits are a constant drain on rural income, damaging crops, competing with stock for pasture, and compromising sustainability. All levels of land management should have rabbit control as a recurrent item in their planning, with an appropriate share of available resources. At a government level, maintenance of research groups and research into integrated control should be a priority, particularly new biological control agents.

Rabbits are a serious economic and ecological problem in most of southern Australia, and the problem will not go away if we turn our backs.

References: [www.rabbitfreeaustralia.org.au](http://www.rabbitfreeaustralia.org.au)