

The Hon Julie Bishop MP

Minister for Education, Science and Training

Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women's Issues

Media Centre

Media Release

Dr Jim Peacock: Australia's New Chief Scientist

28 February, 2006

The Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, today announced the appointment of Dr Jim Peacock AC as Australia's new Chief Scientist.

"Dr Peacock is an outstanding scientist with a record of academic excellence and is highly respected by the science, engineering and technology industry and community," Ms Bishop said.

"This prestigious position requires someone who can contribute to the building of a world-class innovation system, and forge effective partnerships between government, researchers and industry.

"Dr Peacock already represents the interests of scientists through a number of high profile positions and will be an effective advocate for the sector."

He is currently President of the Australian Academy of Science and is former head of CSIRO Plant Industry, one of the world's leading plant research institutes. Dr Peacock is a Member of the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council.

The appointment is part-time and Dr Peacock will continue, part-time, in his role as a senior science leader in CSIRO.

Dr Peacock founded the GeneShears Biotechnology Company for CSIRO and he set up the GrainGene initiative and the HRZ Wheat Company linking research with the production of new wheat varieties for Australia. He played a key role in the establishment of Australia's first and highly successful biotech crop – cotton.

"The recipient of numerous awards for science, Dr Peacock in 1994 was made a Companion of the Order of Australia – Australia's highest honour – for service to science, particularly in the field of molecular biology, and to science education," Ms Bishop said.

"I congratulate Dr Peacock on his appointment and look forward to working with him to deliver the Government's vision to create a better future for all Australians by continuing to build a world class innovation system."

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