



Life Sciences Queensland

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

23 October 2013

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### **TABBS Event Garners Government Support for Queensland Agriculture**

Life Sciences Queensland Limited (LSQ) began its event The Australasian Bioenergy and Bioproducts Symposium (TABBS) this morning, with Ministerial attendees including Hon. Ian Walker, Minister for Science, IT, Innovation and the Arts; and a goal to explore the bioeconomy's role in economic diversification.

The event kicked off at 8:30am at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre following a Ministerial Roundtable breakfast sponsored by Davies Collison Cave to discuss aspects of the Queensland life sciences industry, and included an array of key national and international industry stakeholders.

Minister Walker attended together with Ministerial colleagues Hon. Mark McArdle and Hon. Dr. John McVeigh, and was pleased to have the opportunity to meet with TABBS speakers and other key stakeholders to discuss the opportunities that agricultural biotechnology offers for Queensland.

"Agriculture and the opportunities it provides for new industries and jobs is an important pillar of the Newman Government," said Minister Walker.

"It is particularly important to understand how the capabilities of the knowledge based sector can be applied to diversify our industry – be it to feed, fuel, or heal our society."

Mr Walker said ag-biotech also aligned with the top 10 priorities identified for the Queensland Plan, especially around making regional Queensland a powerhouse of innovative economic activity.

On the back of the Queensland Plan articulating that we commission a 30-plus year horizon for the State, LSQ CEO Mario Pennisi said Queensland's agricultural biotechnology sector had strong State Government support and was confident of the opportunities the life sciences industry offered, which was a key point of focus and effort at TABBS.

#### **Media Enquiries:**

For more information please contact  
Jai Morton, Marketing Assistant on  
P +617 3331 3939 | E [jmorton@lsq.com.au](mailto:jmorton@lsq.com.au)

**Life Sciences Queensland Limited**  
PO Box 2366, Toowong DC Q 4066  
AUSTRALIA  
[www.lsq.com.au](http://www.lsq.com.au)



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“TABBS provided a platform to look at what “could be” in Queensland and identify ways we can work to get there,” Mr Pennisi said.

“Specifically, how the state might apply its efforts and resources to focus on renewable and sustainable aspects of agriculture and the environment, and new industries and resultant jobs that may develop.

“The leadership and support indicated by the Newman Government at TABBS and in a broader capacity means that there will be new and exciting opportunities leveraging on our existing strengths for economic diversification in this great state.”

LSQ is an industry organisation working to provide leadership, promotion and growth opportunities for life sciences firms in Australia, and enhance Members’ national and international reputations as providers of commercial and research excellence in the life sciences.

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**Websites of interest:**

LSQ – [www.lsq.com.au](http://www.lsq.com.au)

TABBS - <http://www.tabbs.com.au/>

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Jai Morton, Marketing Assistant on  
P +617 3331 3939 | E [jmorton@lsq.com.au](mailto:jmorton@lsq.com.au)

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