

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY SUBMISSION

INQUIRY INTO WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA



Murdoch University welcomes the announcement of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee's Inquiry into Western Australia's economic relationship with the Republic of India.

Murdoch University has a long-standing relationship with India, attracting international students, research collaborations and developing policy projects with government and government agencies.

Murdoch University's ten year Strategic Plan (2017-2027) has a strong focus on global connectedness, especially with Asia and the Indo-Pacific Region. Our focus ensures that India plays a significant role in future directions and aligns with State Government economic priorities.

We consider internationalisation as a whole-of-university enterprise, informing and transforming what we do and who we are. International experience is invaluable to all our students and staff, irrespective of their location and informs our academic and operational excellence.

Our Strategic Plan states that "the academic future of universities in the modern world is critically dependent on global connectedness. Big global research challenges are investigated by multinational teams, bringing together academia, industry, business and other organisations."

We are growing our global links through a number of strategic measures including attracting a greater number of high quality international onshore students to Perth, building new offshore education partnerships, and making strategic appointments to build collaborative partnerships across teaching and research.

Murdoch University recognises the economic and cultural importance of the Republic of India to our State, and acknowledges the data used in many of the other submissions to the Committee to illustrate this. India's emergence as a global economic superpower, along with its changing demographics and urbanisation of its population provides immense opportunities for our State through the provision of goods, services, knowledge and cultural experiences.

At Murdoch University, we enable our students and staff to be mobile to enhance their international experience and global identities through the numerous global partnerships Murdoch has with overseas universities and organisations. Through our academic activities we are a globally connected university, whilst being situated in, and particularly engaged within the Asia and Indo-Pacific zones.

Current student profile at Murdoch University

- 1,386 students enrolled at Murdoch University whose country of permanent residence is India (2019)
- These students generate revenue of \$31,725,151 for Murdoch and an estimated total impact of around \$60 million on the gross state product per annum
- 1,128 of these students are enrolled in postgraduate studies
- The five most popular courses are the Bachelor of Science, Masters of Information Technology, Health Administration, Policy and Leadership, Master of Professional Accounting, and the Masters of Business Administration

Research and academic activities

- 224 co-authored research papers with 83 Indian organisations in the years 2009-2018
- 56 collaborations with academic institutions, 2 with corporates, 21 with government agencies, 2 with medical organisations and 2 others

- Current exchange partner with OP Jindal Global University exchange program for law and engineering students
- Republic of India delegations hosted at Murdoch University Perth campus
 - Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (LUVAS) Hisar, Haryana, India (June 2017)
 - Ministry of Rural Development, India (March 2018)
 - Lovely Professional University (LPU) (April 2018)
 - Indian Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (June 2018)

Murdoch University has welcomed the State Government's focus on building links and relationships with our nearest neighbours. It is a necessary policy shift which reflects a long held position throughout the community that our future success, prosperity and wellbeing is tied to our links with the Indo-Pacific, and our neighbours to our north and west, which we share a time zone with.

The Asian Engagement Strategy identifies opportunities for various sectors to develop connections and demonstrate a commitment to economic integration and collaborations with our Asian neighbours. We believe that this needs to be a long lasting commitment for any future government so that the measures identified in the plan are effectively delivered and measured.

In the higher education sector, Western Australia is focused on increasing market share of international students from Asia, as the State has a relatively low share of Asian students nationally.¹ Murdoch University has welcomed the recent efforts by the State Government to make Western Australia a more attractive destination for international students, however, there remains much more to be done as we still lag behind all other states.

The recent decision by the Federal and State Governments to reinstate Perth's regional status is significant, and provides an important opportunity to further promote Perth as a desirable study destination. This can best be done through the provision of direct flights, in-country marketing and the greater use of champions and ambassadors for Western Australia.

Murdoch University is already recognised as one of the most international universities in Australia, and in the top 1 percent of the most globalised universities in the world.² We currently have a large and highly regarded campus in Singapore and a smaller education centre in Dubai.

Murdoch University's agricultural and environmental researchers are recognised internationally, working at the cutting edge of science and in successful collaborations with industry and governments to ensure future food production systems are both profitable and sustainable.

Murdoch University acknowledges the Asian Engagement Strategy's aims to drive future growth through working with industry and export partners to collaborate on research, development and innovation to increase productivity and competitiveness.

In recognising this and the Republic of India as a significant area of growth and opportunity for Western Australia, Murdoch continues to seek out opportunities for collaboration, especially in the agricultural and environmental research space. One area of significant focus and opportunity is our Food Futures Institute which is working to provide solutions on the sustainable use of limited land and water resources to economically and ethically improve food, forestry and fibre production.³ The Institute incorporates three research centres: animal production and health; crop and food innovation and sustainable farming systems.

¹ Western Australia's Asian Engagement Strategy 2019-2030 *Our Future with Asia*

² Murdoch University Strategic Plan (2017-2027)

³ Murdoch University, *Research that secures the future: Food*, Food Futures Institute. 2020.

Murdoch currently has a Memorandum of Understanding with Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences to cooperate in the fields of animal sciences research and training and improvement of production techniques through exchange of scientists, technologies and joint research programs.

Murdoch University also seeks to forge deeper cultural ties with India and the subcontinent. In doing so, we have embraced our two nations' shared passion for the game of cricket. Murdoch University also welcomes the recent focus by the Premier and the State Government on building cultural links with India, and the appointment of former Australian cricketer Adam Gilchrist to promote the State.

In seeking to create a unique point of difference in the competitive global market, with a specific focus on India, Murdoch University is developing the Murdoch University WACA International Cricket Academy.

The Cricket Academy will be delivered in partnership with the WACA and will utilise Murdoch's cricketing facilities as well as also giving students the chance to train at the WACA ground. Students will be supported through the WACA to join community cricket clubs and continue to increase Murdoch's growing community engagement footprint.

The International Cricket Academy will be formally launched in the near future for commencement in semester 2, 2020. We have secured the support of former Australian cricketer Mike Hussey who is the Academy's inaugural Ambassador. Murdoch University looks forward to working with the State Government to promote the Cricket Academy and attract a greater number of students to the State.

Murdoch University, as part of its role as a community institution with a strong global outlook, understands that it can assist in unlocking the benefits of a deep and meaningful relationship with the Republic of India. The University appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this important conversation.