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## ENVIRONMENT - IN BRIEF

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In 2006 WME (<http://www.wme.com.au/magazine/>) reported on some important developments regarding scientific research in Australia. In this article we briefly look at developments 6 years on.

The trend is for continued strong funding of Australian research (refer to the hyperlinks in each article).

However, fundamental questions remain regarding the split of Australian government, international & private investment. For example, private Australian organisations contributed less than 0.2% of CSIRO's total \$1 billion budget in 2010 / 2011.

Since the first CRC's established in 1991 we've had growth in research but not necessarily strongly supported by private Australian organisations. Is this just a question of financial capacity or our approach to research & development?

One company that adopted a creative approach through science & technology is Plantic who developed a bio-compostable confectionery wrapper now in wide use globally. Their first partnership was with Cadbury Schweppes.

### WME Magazine – February 2006

**Investment in Australian research** through Cooperative Research Centres has made Australia \$1.1 billion better off, or 60c wealthier for every dollar the federal government has put in, according to a study by Allen consulting Group.

<http://www.ausbiotech.org/directory/details.asp?companyid=%7B284BEB9C-6E0F-4859-BCF2-C9C49E71EF9B%7D&returnurl=%2Fdirectory%2Fsearch.asp%3Fpg%3D31>

<http://www.austrade.gov.au/Invest/Investor-Updates/2011/1007-Australian-research-leads-the-world-in-carbon-capture-and-storage>

<http://www.austrade.gov.au/Invest/Investor-Updates/2012/0116-Australian-innovation-to-fuel-a-sustainable-aviation-future>

<http://www.austrade.gov.au/Invest/Investor-Updates/New-collaborative-research-powering-Australian-innovation>



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WME Magazine – February 2006

**An alliance between packaging** firms Amcor and Plantic Technologies aims to develop a cheap wrapper that rapidly breaks down on contact with water and can be used for mainstream confectionaries.

Plantic in 2012

<http://www.plantic.com.au/>

<http://www.plantic.com.au/technology/research-and-development.html>

<http://www.plantic.com.au/technology/casestudies.html>