



Parliament of Australia
House of Representatives

IAN MACFARLANE MP
Federal Member for Groom

24 September 2012

Congratulations and best wishes to the Australian Academy of Science for its major event, Science Pathways: Getting Science on the National Agenda.

Unfortunately, Parliamentary commitments mean I'm unable to join in this forum, but let me assure you, I understand and appreciate the enormous value of science across almost every aspect of our lives.

I'm lucky enough to come from a family of scientists - my mother is a scientist and my grandfather was a geologist. As a result I know how the many strands of science can unlock knowledge in a range of areas, including the most important such as medicine and health.

But having an appreciation of science also helps when working through a range of issues in other areas of life. It encourages people to adopt a certain way of thinking through their problems and applying steps to solve the challenges life throws at them.

Science is practical, it's purposeful, but just as importantly it's also interesting.

By working to get science on the national agenda, the Australian Academy of Science is encouraging the next generation of scientists and researchers who will be crucial in tackling the future challenges society faces, as well as encouraging people who might be scared off by science to think twice about how science can affect their lives.

Best wishes for the Science Pathways program.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ian Macfarlane".

Ian Macfarlane MP
Shadow Minister for Energy and Resources
Federal Member for Groom