

State of Innovation Project – Insights Note #4

Collaboration

Collaboration is jointly solving a defined problem through coordinated activity across different parties. It may generate new knowledge but it may not necessarily result in an innovation.¹

Businesses can benefit from collaboration through the sharing of:



Knowledge



Physical resources



Risks & accountability

Collaboration does not include fee-for-service arrangements, which is where a service provider is paid to complete specific work or services.

This Insights Note is one of four which draws on the findings of a 2023 **State of Innovation collaborative research project** between the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI) and **Bond University** profiling **innovation-active firms in Queensland**.

It provides a snapshot of Queensland businesses collaborating for innovation.

Results are benchmarked against other jurisdictions where relevant.

Collaboration for innovation is trending up

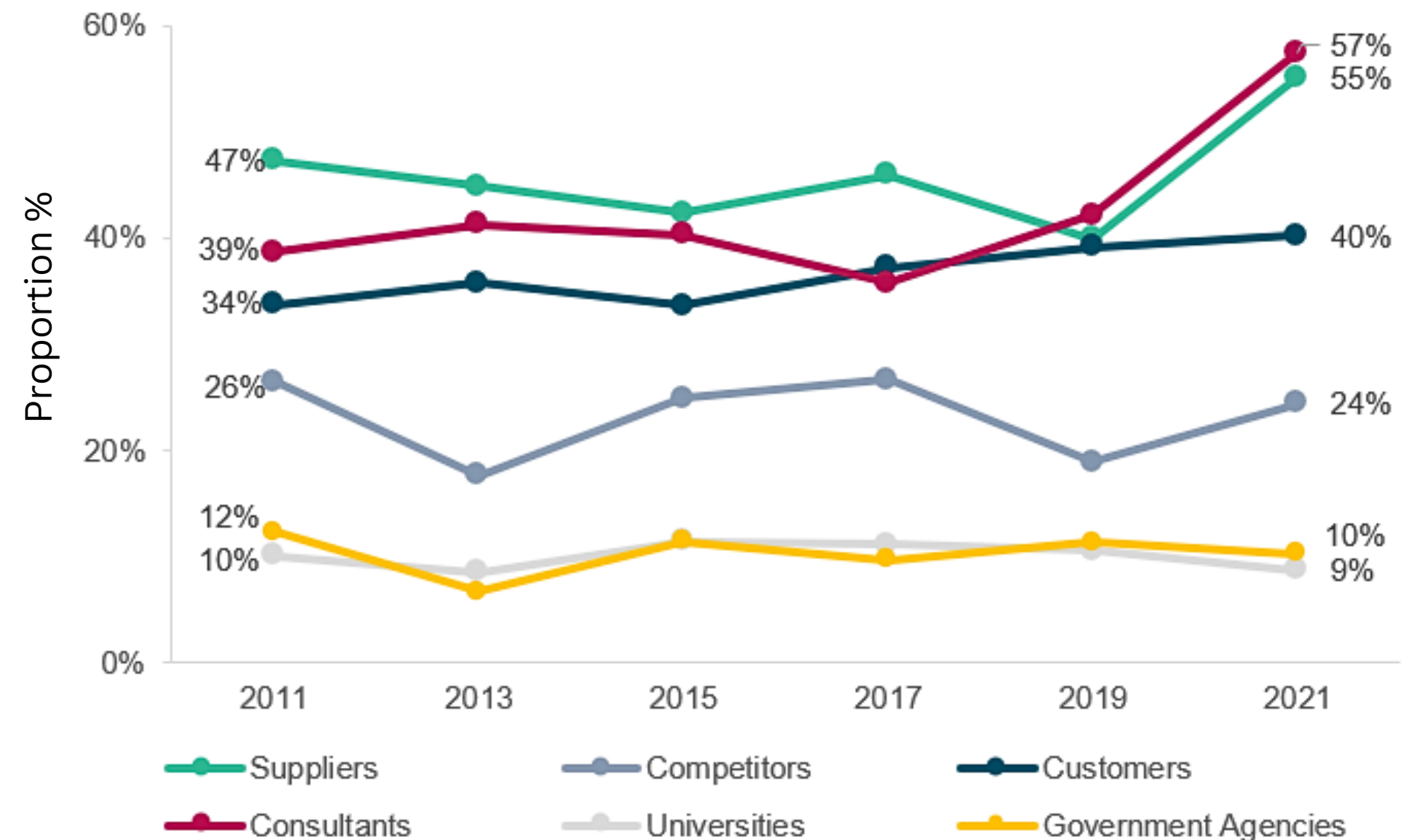
▲ Collaboration up 1.5 times in 10 years

- Queensland has increased the level of business collaboration for innovation between 2011-2021.
- Collaboration increased from 11% in 2011 to 27% in 2021.

🔗 Collaboration partners 2011-2021

- Collaboration with consultants, suppliers and customers have been trending up.
- Queensland businesses partner with suppliers more than other states.
- Collaboration with universities and government agencies is down incrementally.

Queensland innovation-active businesses collaboration with partners 2011-2021



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Business Characteristics Survey. Analysed in ABS DataLab

Note: 'innovation-active' businesses are those that either attempt to innovate or have implemented an innovation.

Factors preventing collaboration for innovation were on the rise in 2021

Top 3 barriers in 2021

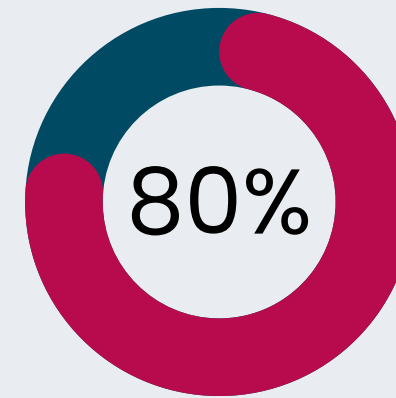
- 23% limited funds
- 21% limited time
- 14% no perceived benefits from collaboration for innovation

These results include both businesses that collaborate and those that do not.

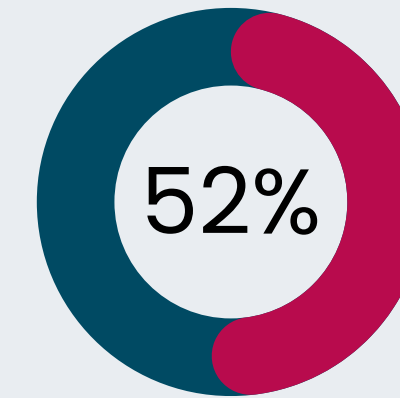
Consultants may provide both a solution to time constraints and specialist skills or ideas as indicated by preferred collaboration partners.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Business Characteristics Survey. Analysed in ABS DataLab

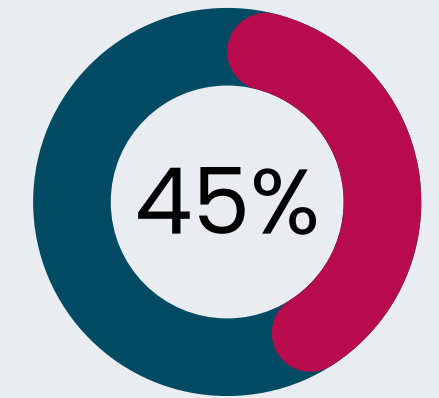
Barriers to collaboration, proportion of change between 2017 and 2021



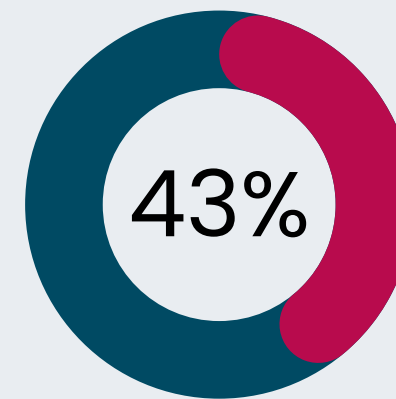
Government regulation



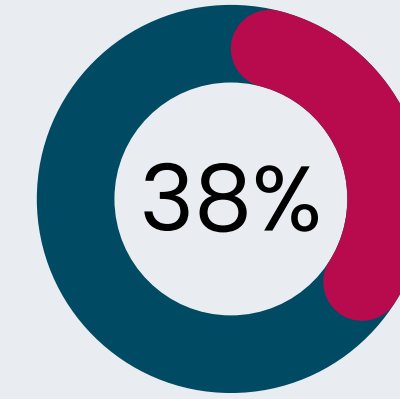
No perceived benefits



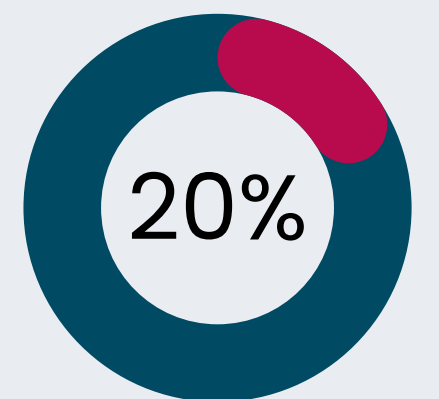
No partners



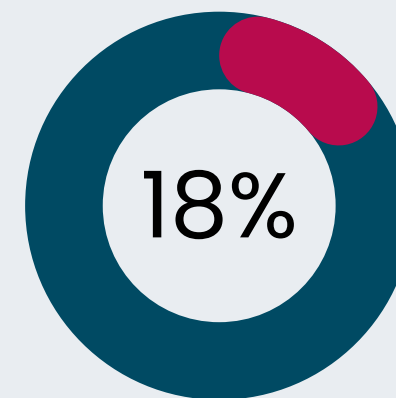
Limited skills



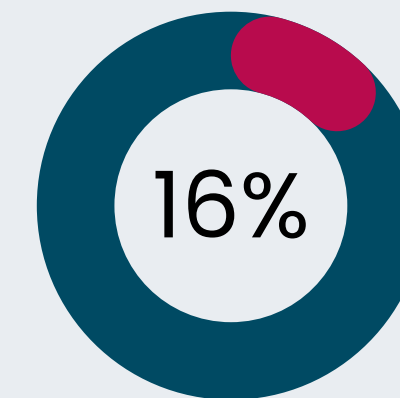
Limited time



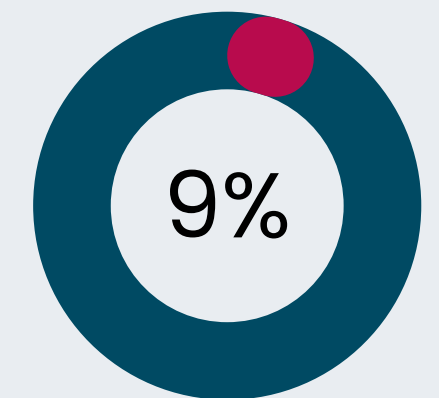
Limited funds



Limited knowledge



Confidentiality



Difference in priorities

Background & more information

State of Innovation Project

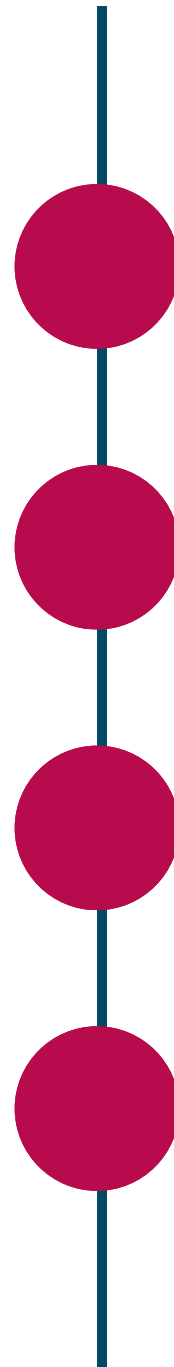
The State of Innovation (SOI) Project was established in 2021 to develop rich data and insights on the Queensland innovation system to support evidence-based policy and decision making.

Profiling Business Innovation in Queensland - a collaborative research project with Bond University

This research project was developed to generate multi-jurisdictional insights about Queensland innovation-active firms between 2011 and 2021.

More information

For more information about the SOI Project, the collaborative study and or this Insights Note contact: advancequeenslandcorro@dtis.qld.gov.au



Data Source

This Note uses the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Business Longitudinal Analysis Data Environment (BLADE) dataset.

The primary data source utilised within BLADE is the Business Characteristics Survey (BCS) and from 2021 the Innovation Module. The ABS administer this annual survey and collects data on business characteristics, including innovation.

Limitations

The results here may differ from the publicly available BCS results. Weightings may have been applied by the ABS in their analysis for the publicly available results.

Due to privacy and ABS disclosure restrictions, some data is missing in certain years.

Furthermore, the BCS has had changes over the years. For example, 2021 data should be read with some caution as this is the first iteration of a biennial survey period.